1
FREE COLLARS KINGDOM
フリーカラーズキングダム
CATS
TAKUYA FUJIMA

Zooom-Manga
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.

FREE COLLARS KINGDOM

フリーカラーズキングダム

1

TAKUYA FUJIMA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
William Flanagan

LETTERED BY
North Market Street Graphics

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Free Collars Kingdom volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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This is a Scottie (a Scottish Fold, a breed of cat), the same kind of cat that appears in this manga. Its distinctive floppy ears are what make it so cute. If it leaves home, it gets mixed up with Cyan and starts to make noise. It got a little agitated when the picture was being taken, so its ears are standing up a little. In reality this Scottie . . . is a male!! Yeah, but let's just put that fact aside for a moment.

This is the first volume of *Free Collars Kingdom.*

They've got cat ears. They've got fangs. It's quite different from that movie a while back.

Of course, I draw characters that don't have cat ears, but recently, if they don't, I get the feeling the drawing isn't finished. It's probably just my imagination . . . I think.

Takuya Fujima

HONORIFICS EXPLAINED

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), or is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

CULTURAL NOTE

The same way cats say *meow* in English-speaking countries, they say *nyan* in Japan. Through the course of this book, the reader may see quite a few references to *nyan* made in the form of puns or other cat allusions.

フリーカラーズキングダム

1

FREE COLLARS KINGDOM

Takuya Fujima

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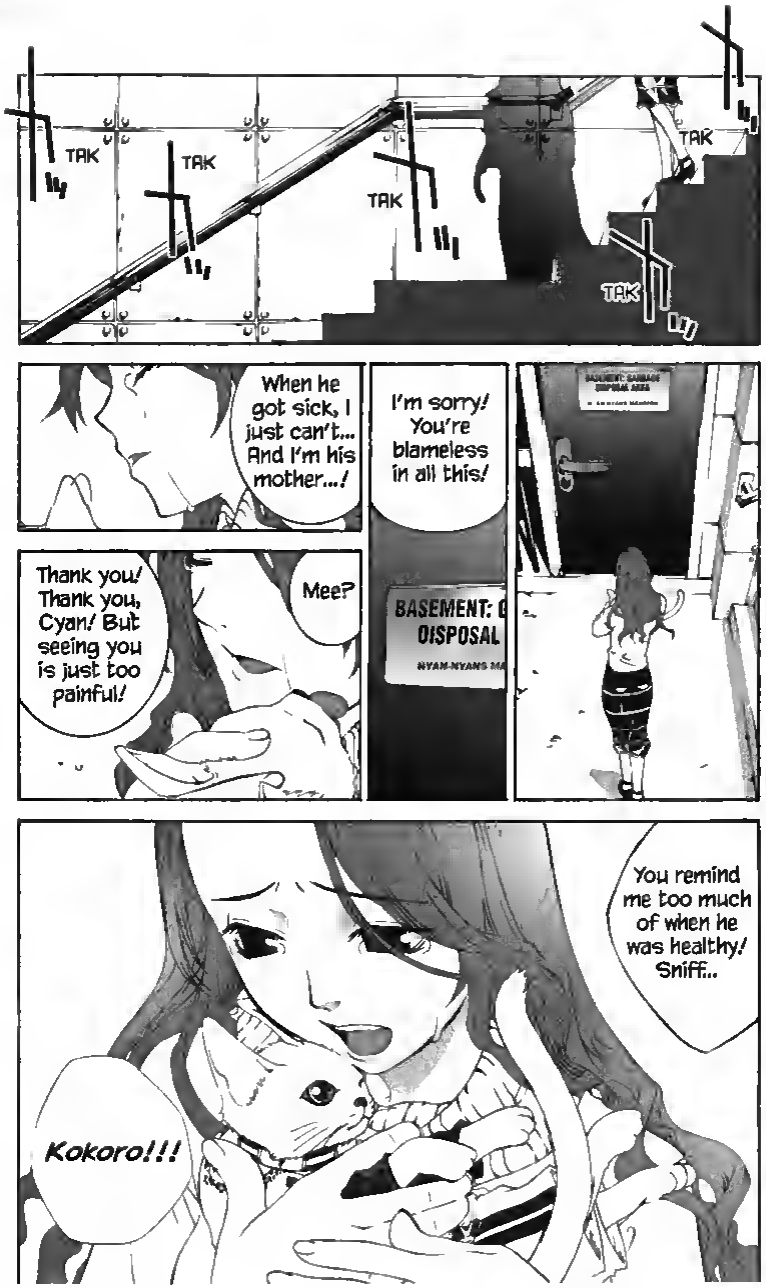
The cat must be somewhere in this building. What kind of cat is it? What kind of master does it have?
It's such a nice...warm-feeling scent, huh?
What's that scent? It's a cat... like me.
P...promise...
"That's a promise!"
Kokoro-kun... You're coming home quick, right? And when you get home, you'll play with me...
Sure he will!

SKRTCH
Nyaa! Nyaa!
SKRTCH
More!!
Play with me more! More!
Ha ha! I just love Kokoro-kun!
Nyaa!
I guess I got no choice. I'll have to play with you awhile.
Nyaaaaoo!!
So we're going to be apart for a little while. Be a good kitty! When I get back, we'll play together again!
That's a promise!
Cyan...I'll be back as soon as I'm all better.
We're heading out. Kokoro Hurry up, the taxi is waiting downstairs.
Okay...
Kokoro...kun...


TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
When he got sick, I just can't... And I'm his mother...!
I'm sorry! You're blameless in all this!
BASEMENT: GARBAGE DISPOSAL AREA
Thank you! Thank you, Cyan! But seeing you is just too painful!
Mee?
BASEMENT: D
DISPOSAL
NYAN-NYANS MA
You remind me too much of when he was healthy! Sniff...
Kokoro!!!

Cat Tale : Those Who Wear Free Collars

TIP
TIP
I have... no tears...
I...decided! I'm going to stay here in this basement!
That's right!
I wonder how Kokoro-kun is doing with his illness.
...made a promise!!
Kokoro... kun...
"So we're going to be apart for a little while. Be a good kitty! See you...See you later, Cyan! That's a promise!"
Kokoro-kun's mother left me here and moved away...
But Kokoro-kun himself never abandoned me!

GRRN
MYAAAAAA
NNNNN
Though I doubt anybody will.
It'd be nice if you found somebody to take care of you...
But...
Kokoro would be heartbroken if he knew...
Good-bye, Cyan!

I'm going to stay right here!!
It's the perfect location to determine whether the traffic is too busy to cross the street. And it's called...
HANDS
And among those battles is an especially brutal fight for possession of prime property, a certain apartment block's basement garbage disposal room.
This is Japan's most intense spot. A battlefield between feral cats fighting for territory.
Ikebukuro

ZZZ
I'd do my business.
I'd eat.
And...
ZZZ
ZZZ
I'd do my business.
I'd eat.
AAH!
And...
And...
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
I'd do my business.
I'd eat.
And...
And...
And...

BASEMENT: G
DISPOSAL
NYAN-NYANS M
Okay, now where do I start?!

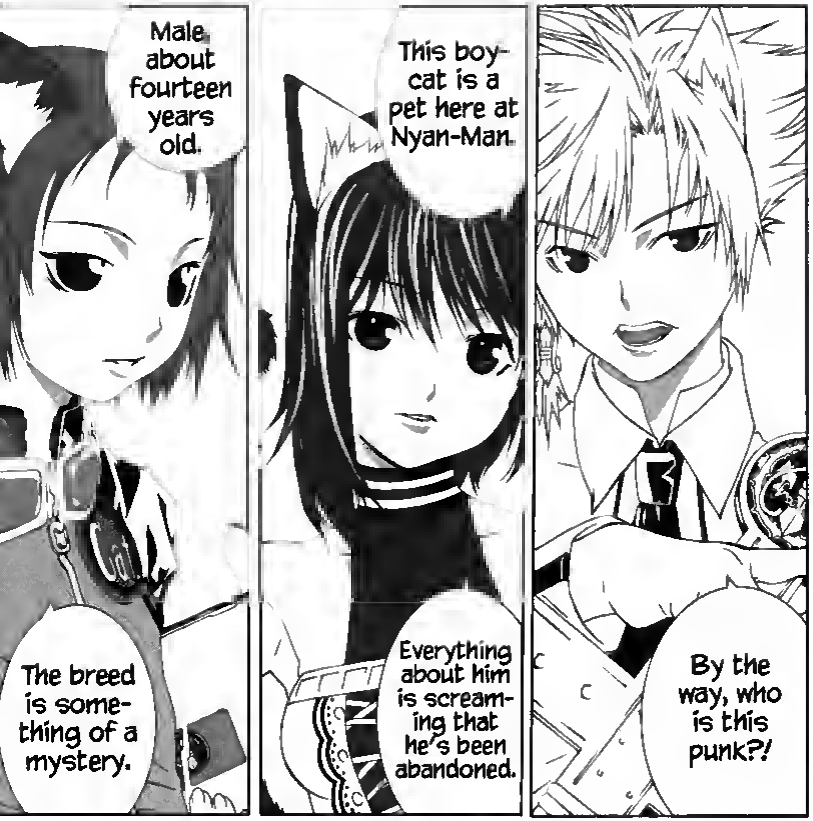
What have I been doing up until now?

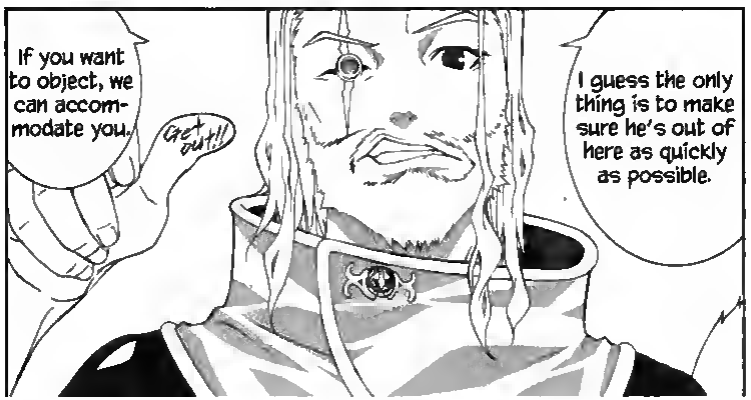
The Nyan-Nyans Mansion!

Garbage...
Garbage...
Garbage...
It's all just garbage. Blaugh!
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL.
SWIP
Eeeh?!!!
SHAKE
What did you expect? It's our territory after all!!!
But something's strange about this room. It's got so much trash, but it doesn't stink.

Right! First thing is food!!
RATTLE
RATTLE
JMP
PWIP
I may say that, but...
NYAAAAA!
And I'd play with Kokoro-kun!!!
HUGE RAMPAGE
PBBBBT
OH, NOOOO!
SIGH
What a fulfilling life! ♡
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
But...that was only when I was with Kokoro-kun.

...aaaaaaaaaaah!!!
Aaaaaaaaaaaa...
STARE-NYA
STARE
I've seen you on TV!
Oh, right, I know about you guys.
Ha! TV, huh? I figured we'd be famous...
That's what you're surprised about?! I mean, you're one, too!
You're a cat!! That's amazing!
NYAA!
Heh! Of course you'd be shocked at seeing us arrive in force.
TWIK
You're the feral cats!
And so...
Is he an idiot?
NYAA!
You're all abandoned cats!!
It's you guys!

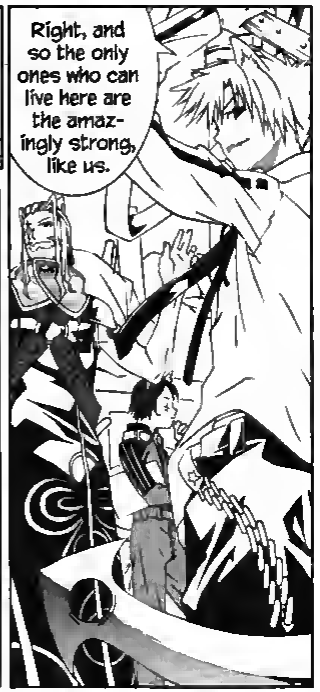

Male, about fourteen years old.
The breed is something of a mystery.
This boy-cat is a pet here at Nyan-Man.
Everything about him is screaming that he's been abandoned.
By the way, who is this punk?!


If you want to object, we can accommodate you.
Get out!!
I guess the only thing is to make sure he's out of here as quickly as possible.

Don't you ever call us feral cats again!
We and those we allow to hang out with us are called Free Collars.
Hey, kid! We aren't your average feral cats.
Anything you say, Mr. Feral—
GONNG
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
Ah! There's today's dinner.
SLFF
SLFF
We all won our freedom from the humans by our own strength

A never-ending stream of cats from all over the country come here hoping to grab some space for themselves.
And this is East Ikebukuro, the place where territorial battles are the worst in Japan.
SUNSHINE 60 STREET

...it means you're going to have to take us on!
SST
And so, little boy, if you want to stay here...


Right, and so the only ones who can live here are the amazingly strong, like us.

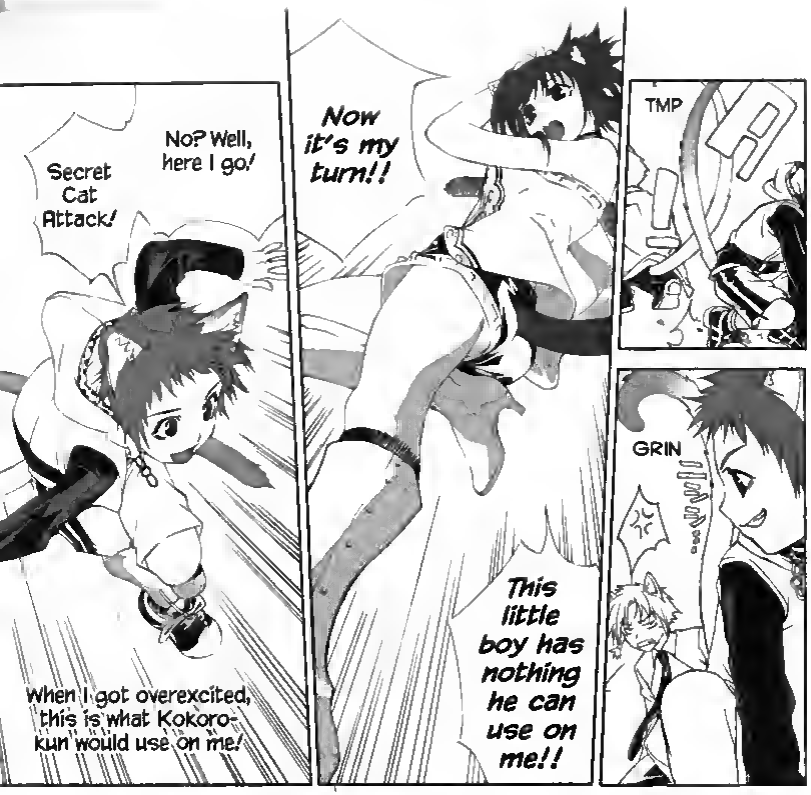
Do you get it now?

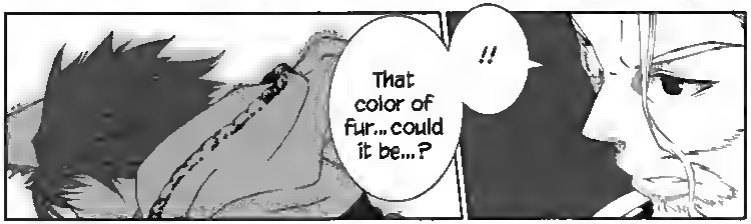
I object.
RIGHT OFF THE BAT.

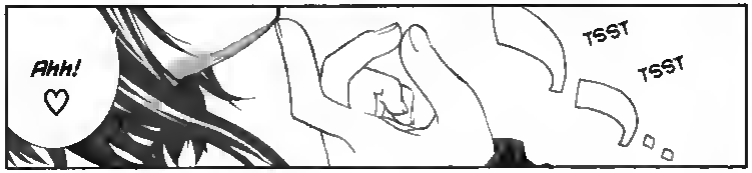
TIP
Little boy... I'm going to teach you something good, so listen closely.
We aren't pets, and this is our territory. One has to make sure one's own living space is protected.
Even if it means we fight other cats to do it.
Such a nice smell!
Ah! That's a girl! That's the scent of a girl!

Wh—
FOOSH
Waaaahh!!
SHHK
?! That was what Kokoro-kun was always doing...
VWOOSH
One more time!!
Hm?
?!?! He dodged it? Must've been a fluke!

If...
No!
Wh—
If you understand, then get outta here now!!!
I-I can't reach!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I decided right from the start.
I'm living here!!
Really? Then we have no choice.
.....
VWISSH
At least, we'll try to make sure you don't suffer.


Secret Cat Attack!
No? Well, here I go!
When I got overexcited, this is what Kokoro-kun would use on me!
Now it's my turn!!
TMP
This little boy has nothing he can use on me!!
GRIN


That color of fur... could it be...?
!!


Ahh!
TSST
TSST

SHHK

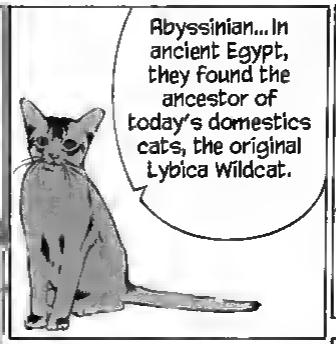
BOING
KYEEEEEE

A fun fighting game!!

Don't use the fact that he's a kid as an excuse...
"Fighting game"? Coon, what are you doing?
And this time...
Twice now?!
Listen, creep! How long are you going to stand there?
HOW HUMILIATING!

Abyssinian?!
Is that some kind of food?

Exactly! And the breed's blood is the most pure in the Abyssinian. Or to put it another way, among all of us domestic cats, the one closest to the wild would be the Abyssinian.
Fascinating. Just fascinating, kid!


Abyssinian... In ancient Egypt, they found the ancestor of today's domestics cats, the original Lybica Wildcat.

This guy's got a pedigree?!
That... *isn't* what he means.

Lybica Wildcat? You mean that extinct breed,...

Nyaaaan!
Purr! Purr for me, little kitty!

There, there.
Ahh!
Couldn't help it...!
PURRRR
PURRRR
Char, did you just...

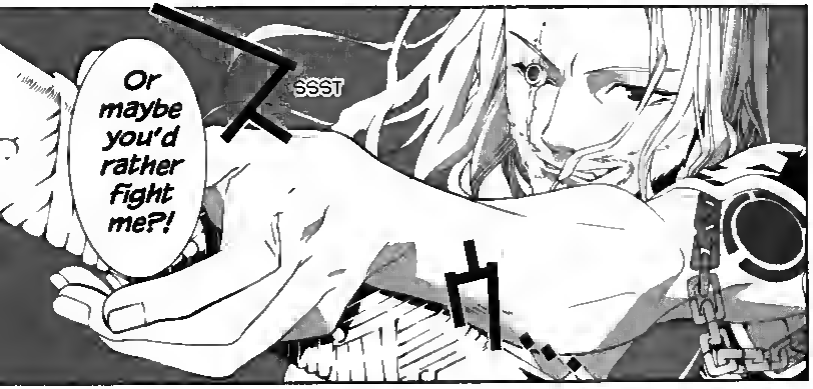
Abyssinian!!
Abby-what?

With the golden color of his fur...
...and those huge ears...
TWIK
This boy's breed can only be...
?!

That superfast movement can only mean...

I'm going to make you stronger.
Nor can you protect this place from others.
You know that your power alone will never take this place from us.

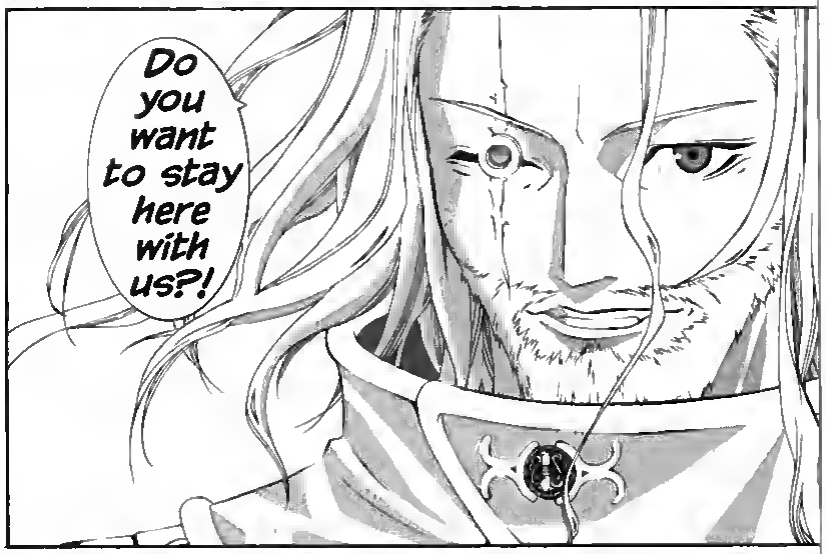
Aw, man! Caught up in another of the old man's hobbies.
Wait a minute!


SSST
Or maybe you'd rather fight me?!

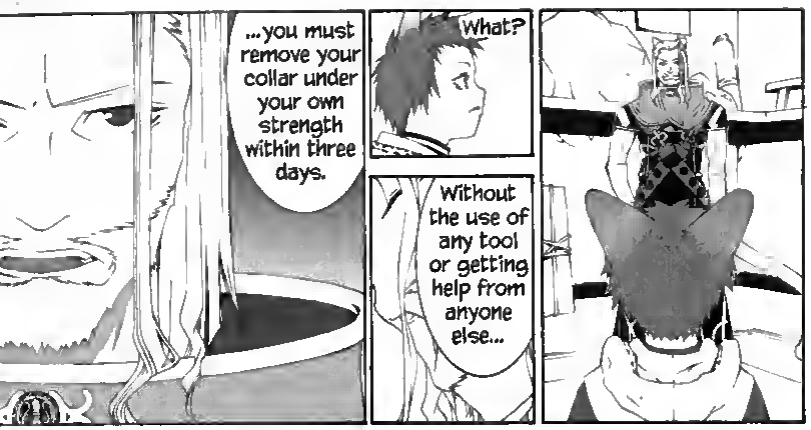
Let me explain it simply so you can understand it.

Fight...? I don't know about fighting...

?!


Do you want to stay here with us?!

Really? Can I?!


...you must remove your collar under your own strength within three days.
What?
Without the use of any tool or getting help from anyone else...

...under my own strength?!
Remove my collar...

Oh, that's good! I *like* battle games!

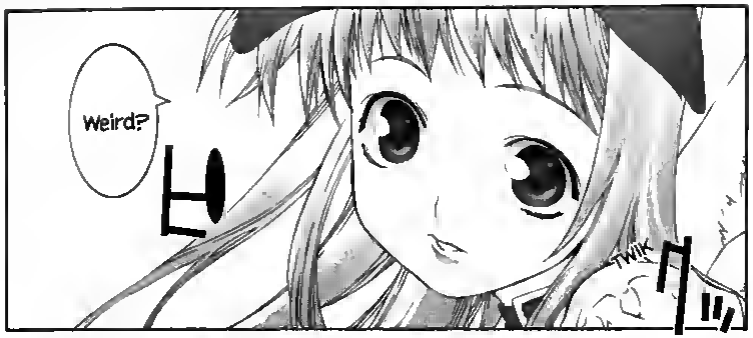
But!!
There's one condition.

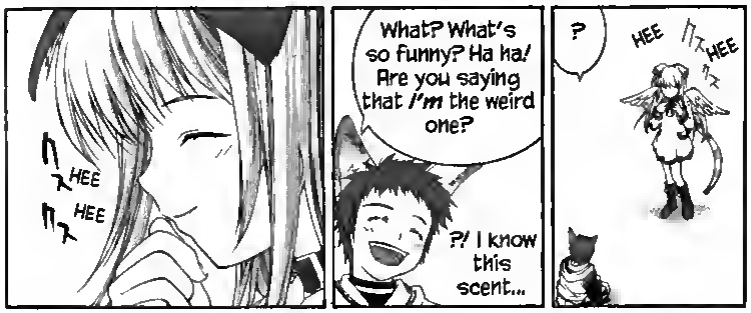
This is a big, ***huge***, battle game.

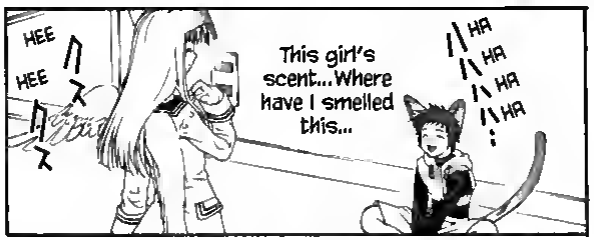
And one more thing...
It's even locked.
That's easy to say, but this one is pretty strong.
Kokoro-kun gave it to me.
Kokoro... kun...
CHINNG
"Cyan!"
CHINNG
"Come here, Cyan!"
CHINNG
"Cyan, let's play!"
CHINNNNG
FLIP
Hello!
PPA
...this place really is deserted.
WHO
But I gotta say...
OOOO
What's this?
CHINNG

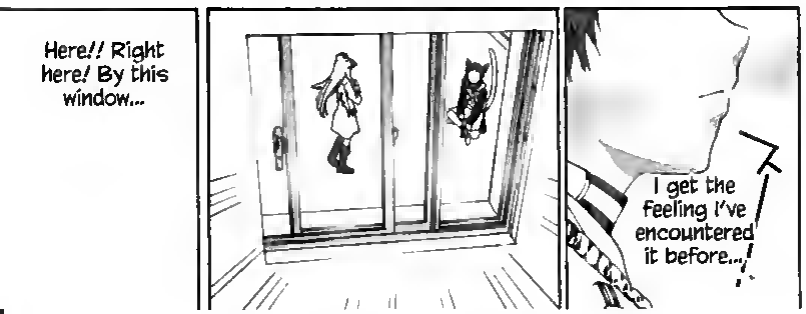
719
Really?
I'm supposed to take off my collar?
The other is to suppress the Wild Spirit that exists at the heart of all of us.
One is so that you will not be able to run away.
There are reasons why humans put those collars on.
It's our strength.
Yes, just as the name implies, an undomesticated soul!
Wild Spirit?

TMP
An angel?!
Nice to meet you, Mr. Cat.
Huh?!!
A bird?!

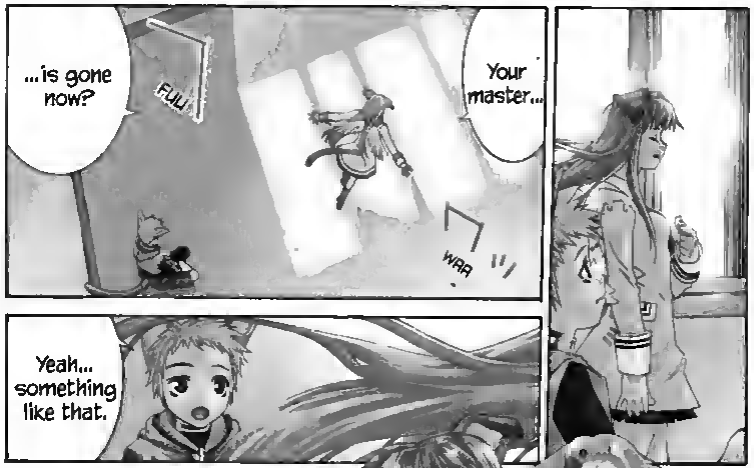

Weird?
TWIK


HEE
HEE
What? What's so funny? Ha ha! Are you saying that I'm the weird one?
?! I know this scent...
?
HEE
HEE


HEE
HEE
This girl's scent... Where have I smelled this...
HA
HA
HA
HA


Here!! Right here! By this window...
I get the feeling I've encountered it before...!

A pet... So you and I are the same...
No we aren't.
Yep! I just slipped away while Master is out.
HEH
A... Are you somebody's pet in this apartment building.
Nice... to meet... you.

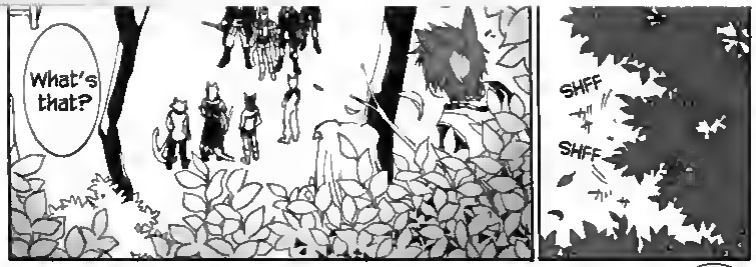

...is gone now?
FUU
WAA
Your master...

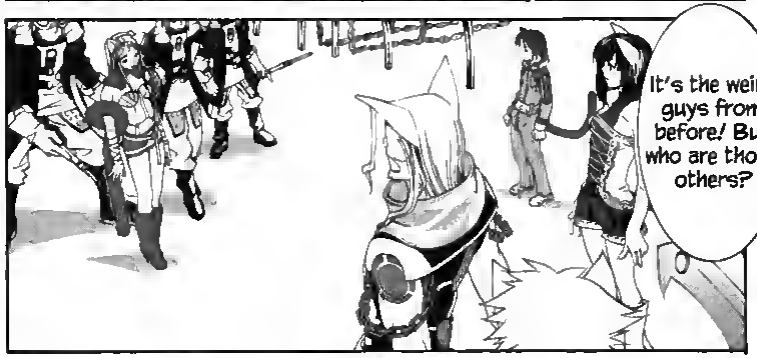
Yeah... something like that.

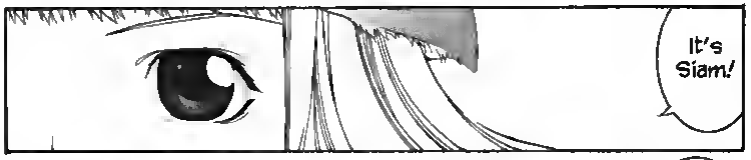
I'll be in the trash room in the basement. There are a bunch of weird guys down there, and it looks like they'll let me stay.
But... I've figured out where I'm going to live next. There's no way I can stay in this room for very long.

B-BMP
I...
FLAFFA
We got so close so fast...
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
I...I'm gonna...

Same for me...
Always...
I...know your scent.
Me, too. Whenever I was here, I sensed you.
Always when I was in my room, I felt your presence.
And finally we meet.


What's that?
SHFF
SHFF


It's the weird guys from before! But who are those others?


It's Siam!

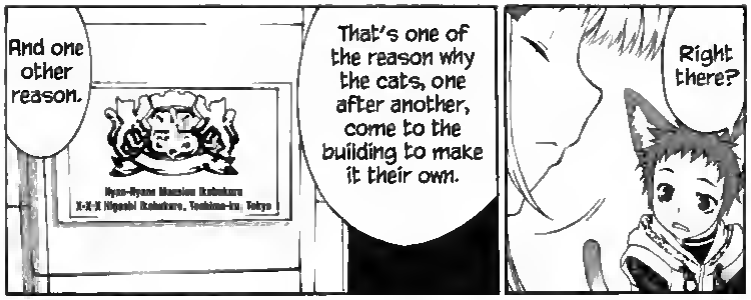
She wants to expand her territory to East Ikebukuro as well.
She controls all of West Ikebukuro... but she can't be satisfied with that.

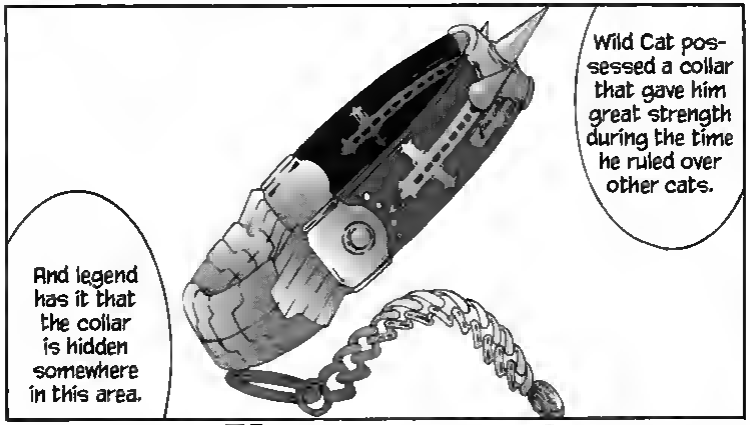
Starting...? Huh?
It's starting again.

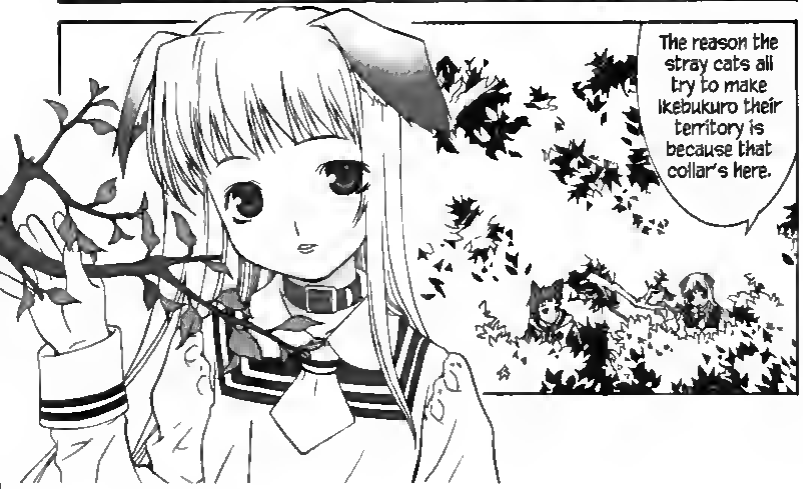
Come with me!!

They say that long ago, before this area was called Ikebukuro, there was a cat who ruled the land as far as the eye could see.
And this cat made sure that Ikebukuro was a peaceful land that never experienced war.
The reason why is that even a thousand enemy cats attacking him at once couldn't defeat him.
Now that you mention it... they say that cats all over Japan want that apartment building as their territory. Why is that?
I...
I think I've heard the answer to that.
The Siam Army... That's the enemy in the battle for territory?

Commander in Chief of the Siam Army. Siam and her underlings.
The thing is... I sense a darkness inside her heart

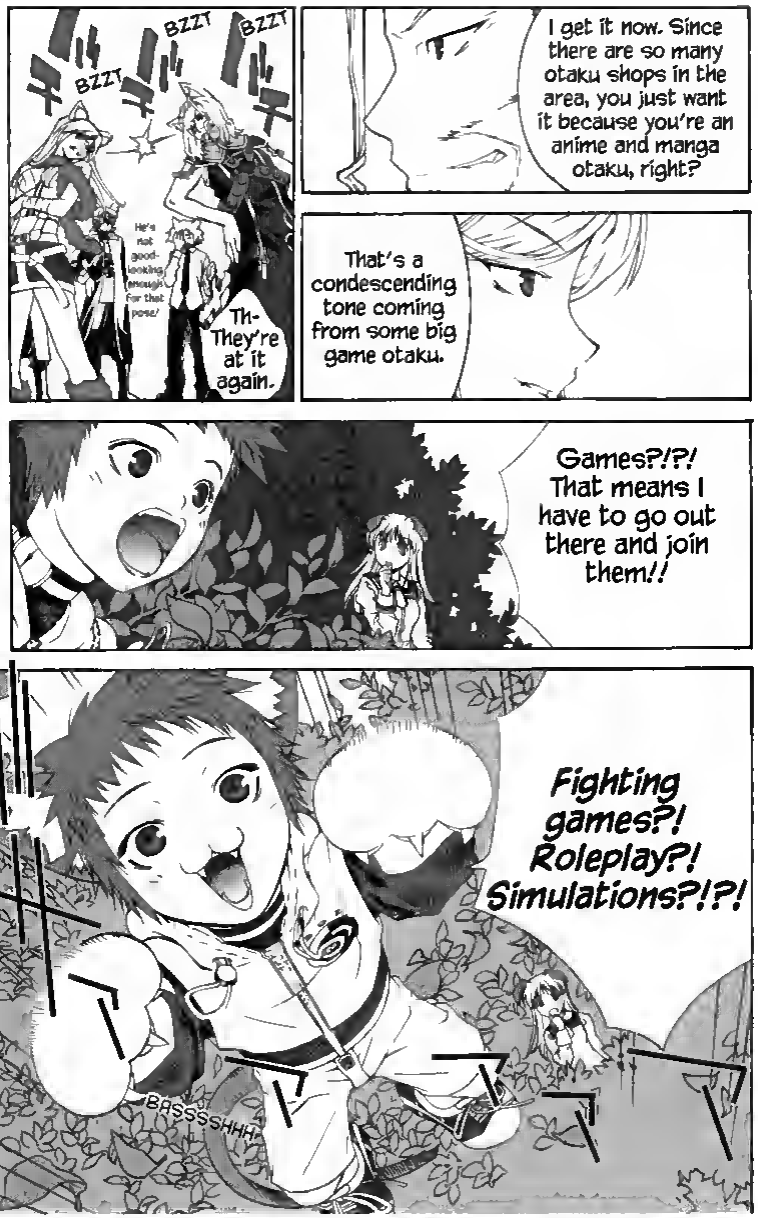

And one other reason.
That's one of the reason why the cats, one after another, come to the building to make it their own.
Right there?


Wild Cat possessed a collar that gave him great strength during the time he ruled over other cats.
And legend has it that the collar is hidden somewhere in this area.


The reason the stray cats all try to make Ikebukuro their territory is because that collar's here.

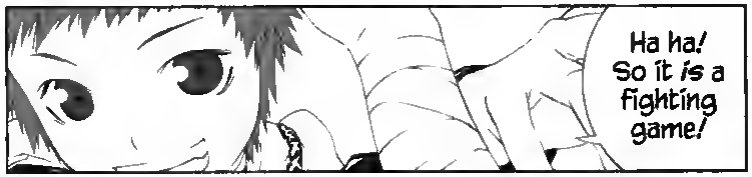
A thousand...
A—Amazing!

He was called the Wild Cat.
They say that Nyan-Nyan Mansion, where we live, was his personal territory.


BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
He's not good-looking enough for that pose!
Th-They're at it again.
I get it now. Since there are so many otaku shops in the area, you just want it because you're an anime and manga otaku, right?
That's a condescending tone coming from some big game otaku.
Games?!?! That means I have to go out there and join them!!
Fighting games?! Roleplay?! Simulations?!?!
BASSSSHHH

So that's the reason why the territorial battles in this area are the worst, huh?
Of course there's no way I could do it.
But when you told me the story of Wild Cat, I got all this energy. Like my blood was racing! If I could be like him, it'd be so cool!
Today my dreams will come true, and this area will be mine!
If it isn't the old badger!
So you're here, you female fox!

!!!!
BA-BLAM


Ha ha! So it *is* a fighting game!

Ah! He's fast!!
Kyaaaaa!!!
FAM
FAM
FAM
Then it's *my* turn now!
TMP
Fool! You can't fight Siam!!

No... This child is...
How dare he come forward still wearing a collar?!
What with this kid? Is he some kind of pet?
Aww! It's the kid! Does he even know what's going on?
I knew he was an idiot.

I'll stay until everyone else is gone! Here I come!
?! You've got more gang members? But it doesn't matter how many you get...
WHOOSH

CHK
TMP !
We'll never give up our territory!!

I told you not to get so worked up! There! There!
PURR
Tummy!!
Writing practice!!
PURR
PURR
PURR

THOK
THOK
THOK

Hyaa!!

Wh— What was that?!!

I... I knew it!

What is this kid?!

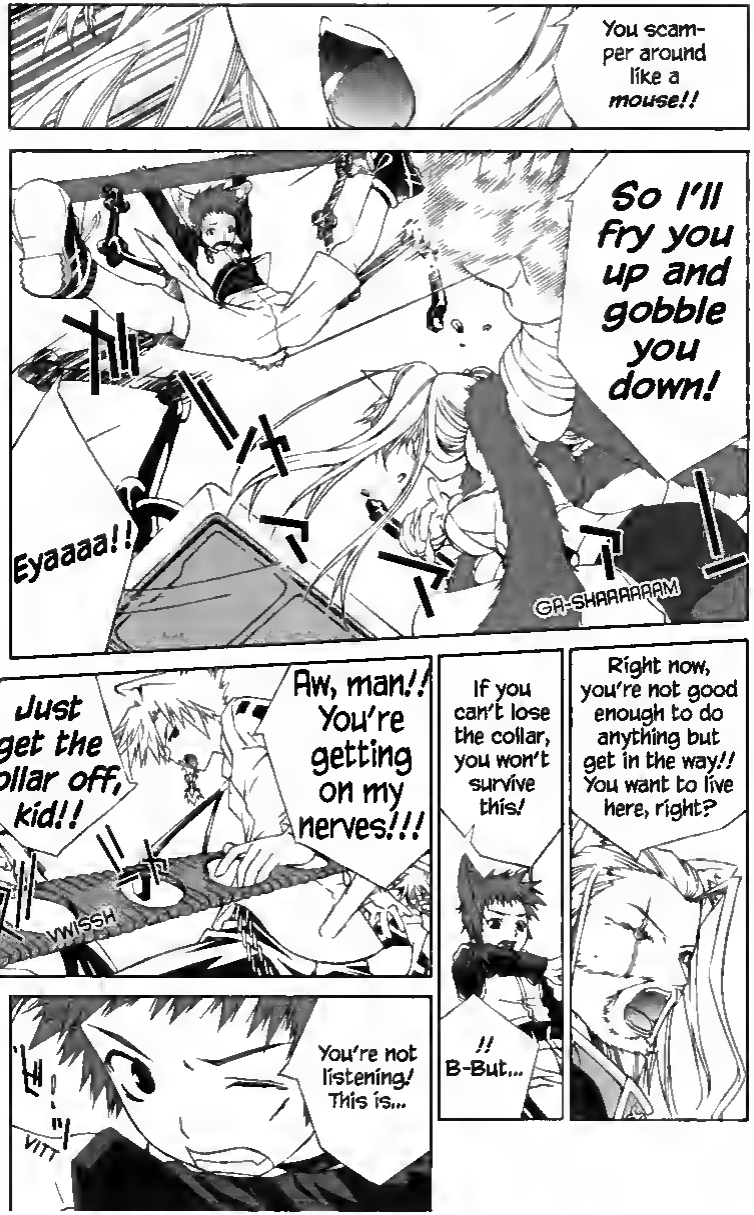
It's just a tiny scratch.
I thought he was just a child! But he's gone too far!
Nooo! He's gouged my skin!

Heh heh!!
Oh! I know!

THOK
I've got a bad feeling about this!

Secret Cat Attack No. 2!!!

Listen, lady... You're too worked up!!
SHAKEEEE

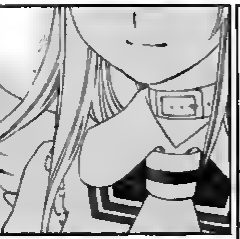

You scamper around like a *mouse!!*
So I'll fry you up and gobble you down!
Eyaaaa!!
GA-SHAAAAAAM
Just get the collar off, kid!!
VWISSH
Aw, man!! You're getting on my nerves!!!
If you can't lose the collar, you won't survive this!
!! B-But...
Right now, you're not good enough to do anything but get in the way!! You want to live here, right?
You're not listening! This is...
VITT

I will not permit any more trickery!
Listen, Kitty-chan!
I— I will not stand for this humiliation!
VWOSH
You have to release the Wild Spirit inside of you!!
SHK
Hey, kid! Get that collar off of your neck!
That little fool. Now he's made Siam get serious.
And I think it looks good!
WHAMM
My collar? But this...
...was given to me by Kokoro-kun!

?!!
ZWOOOM
K-Kid!!
That's one kitty down.
NYAA
Kokoro-kun!!!!

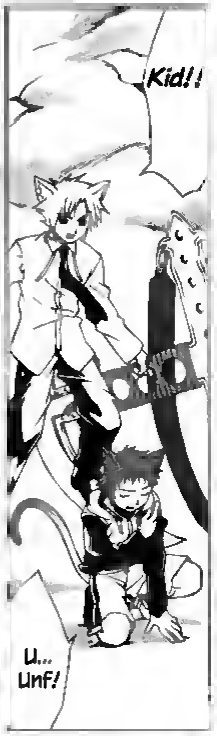
Yeah, I know!
It's the only thing left of your master, right?!
He does know!
Everybody gets it!
The old man gave you that condition because he understands!
If you're gonna stay in a pet's mindset, you can't stay with us!!
"Stay in a pet's mindset...".

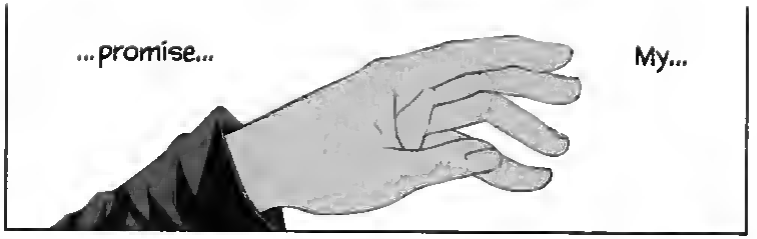
Wh-What is this? Some kind of attack? Soon I won't be able to see anything!

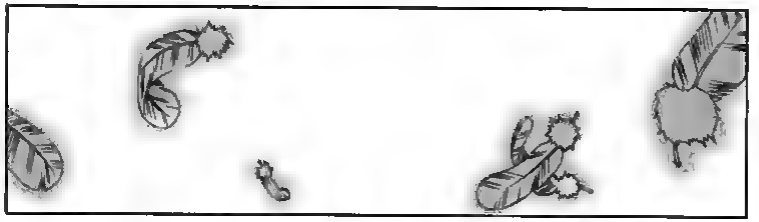


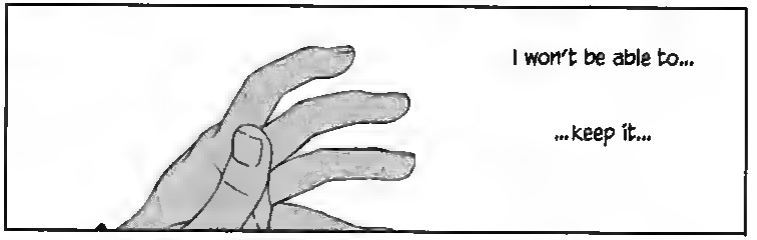
You mean, you, too...

Scottie!!
FAZAR

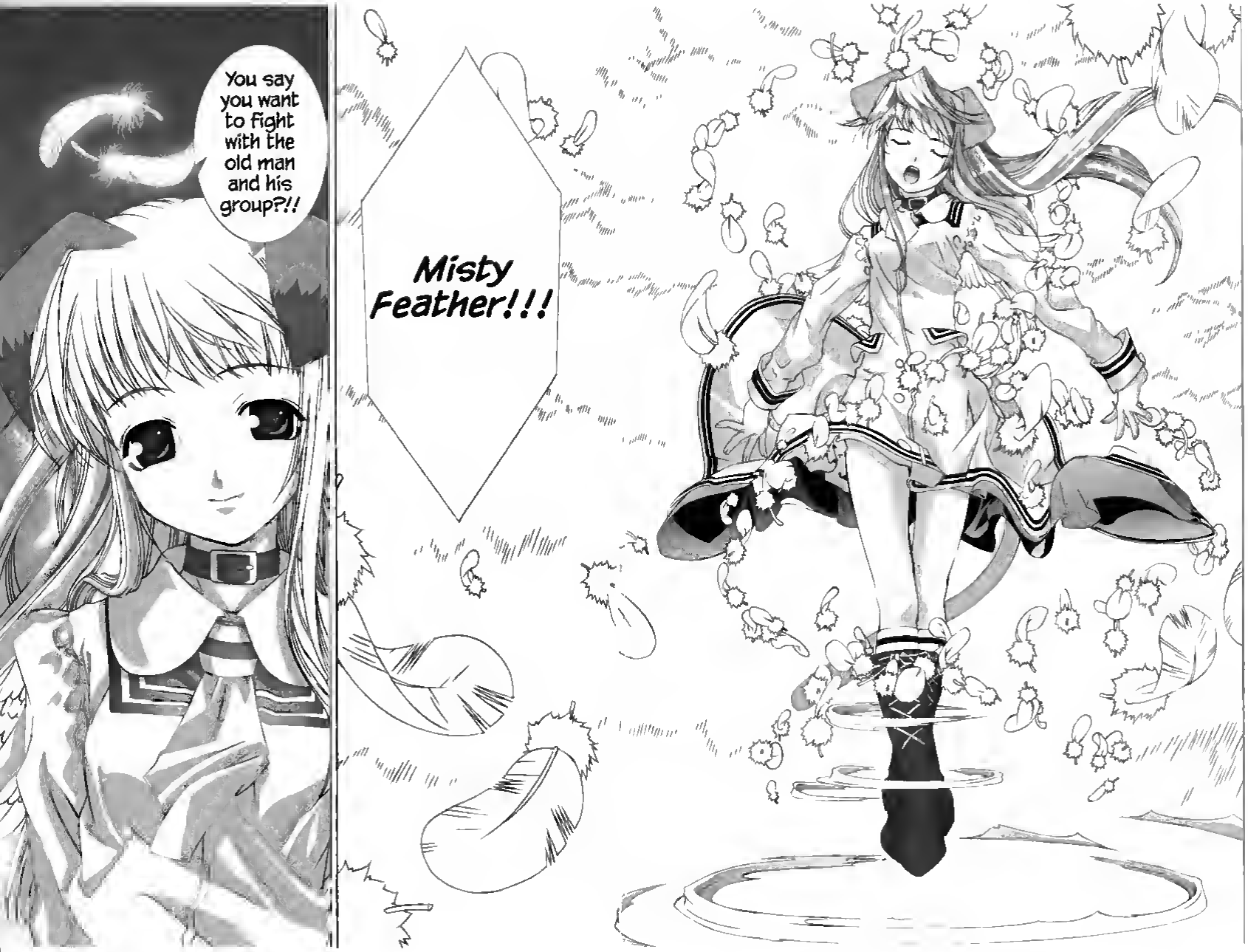

Kid!!
U... Unf!


...promise...
My...



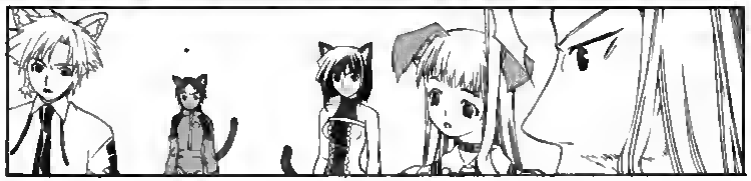

I won't be able to...
...keep it...

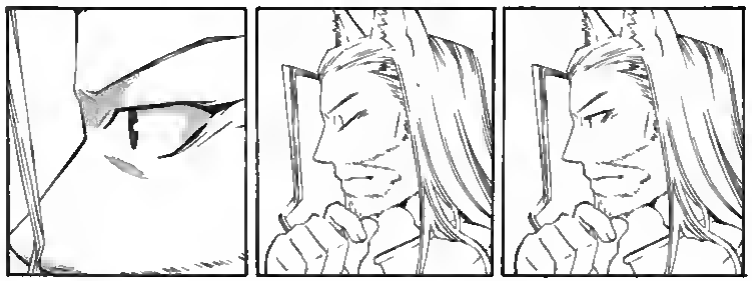
?!!
FWAAAAAAA


You say you want to fight with the old man and his group?!!
Misty Feather!!!

Now, child!
But this is no time for a chat.
What's that, kid? Scottie, you two know each other?
?!
SST
This may be a game, . but we're serious about this game!
Then... you wouldn't mind dying right this moment.
SHHT
Old man...
Or I can die. Either-way I won't be keeping my promise.
Dying?
Oh, I get it. From now on, I have to live the life of a stray cat.

Are you saying... that I can become Wild Cat?

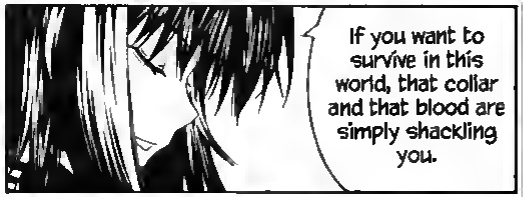




!!!!
Wild Cat!

"Any cat."
B-BMP
B-BMP
He's proof to strays that any cat with a dream can see it come true.
TMP
Wild Cat is the symbol for stray cats.
It's true.
Uwaaaa!!!

GLICK
Not a chance.


If you want to survive in this world, that collar and that blood are simply shackling you.

You can't shed your collar. You're pedigreed. You were raised domestic. Look at you as you are now. You don't even have the will to go stray.

Just like the one you named...
In the end, we're strays.

GRIIMP
GRIIIIPP
GRNN
Awaken!! I call my Wild Spirit to wake up now!!!
GRNN
ZHHH
GRAAH!!
GAAH!
GTCHH
Now, my army! Prepare a simultaneous attack!!!
Here they come!!

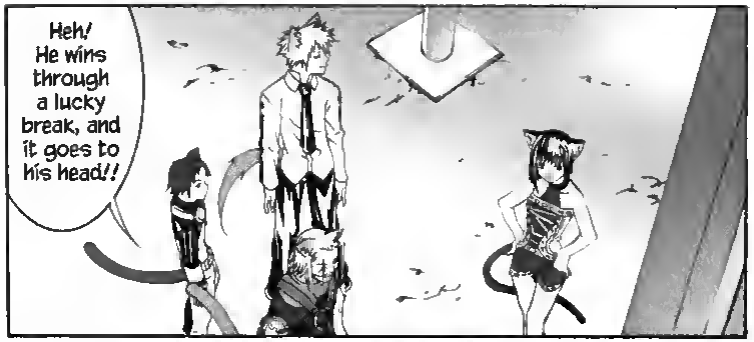
Th-They broke through your technique?!!
Of course, your dream can come true, too.
I have to get stronger! I do...
Just like Wild Cat!!!
DOOM
I grew out of playing hide and seek in the park years ago! This is making me testy!
WHOO
Cat-kun!
I have to...and one reason is so I can wait for Kokoro-kun!!

This sounds like fun! If you think you can do it, then try!!
Is that a different cat from before? I can feel that spirit from here!
Uff!!
I will evict you all right now!!
WHOOSH
TMP
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

ZLM
MM
MM
MM
MM
?!
H-He's really going at it!!
?!
I never saw anybody do it that fast!!
The kid is allowing his potential power... to finally be released.
I always had the feeling that you could do it!

I can't be humiliated like this!!
...I'll show you my very own ultimate cat attack!!!
But the next time we meet...
Kitty-chan, we'll meet again!
We were thrown off of our pace today.
Eh?! We're pulling out!
This can't happen to me!
!
SHUUM
GA-DOO
Siam-samaaaaaa!!!
OOM
Was that...

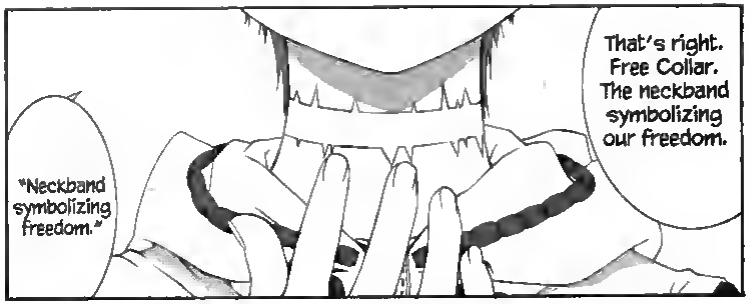
DM
DM
ZA-DOTCH
DWOOOOSH
Take it away, cat ball!!
Ultimate Cat Attack! Suisei! Rin-Rai-Dan!!!
DOOOM
Comet Bell Thunder Shot!!!


Heh! He wins through a lucky break, and it goes to his head!!

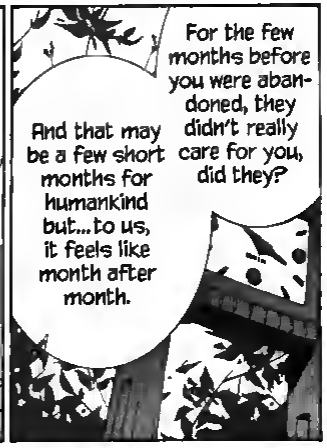
That's a thing that we like to call Free Collars.
This is?
?!
What's that?!
Hey, kid!
Use this and look at your neck.
SHUU
FAPP
A mirror?!

...the release of the Wild Spirit?!!
It was so...
...effortless!!

But for us... we're proud of that scar!
...“Us”...?

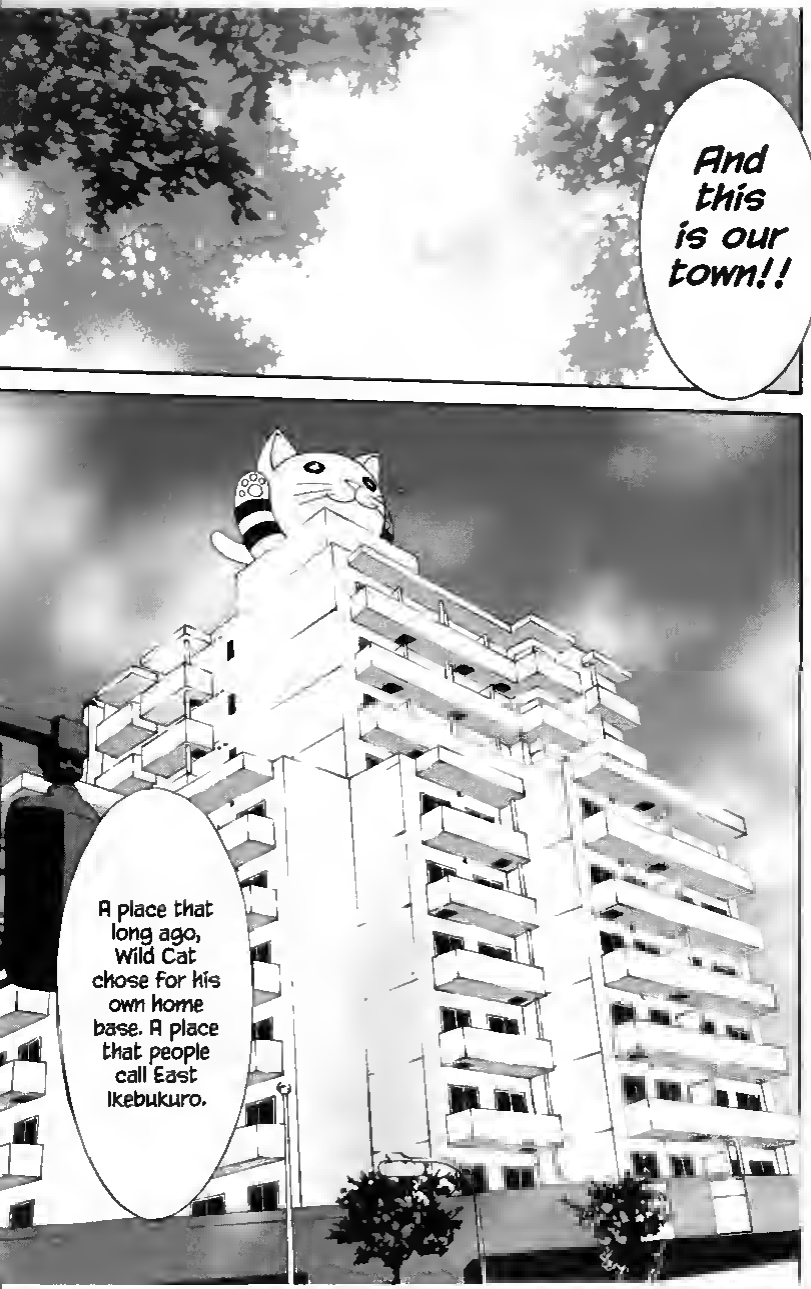

“Neckband symbolizing freedom.”
That's right. Free Collar. The neckband symbolizing our freedom.

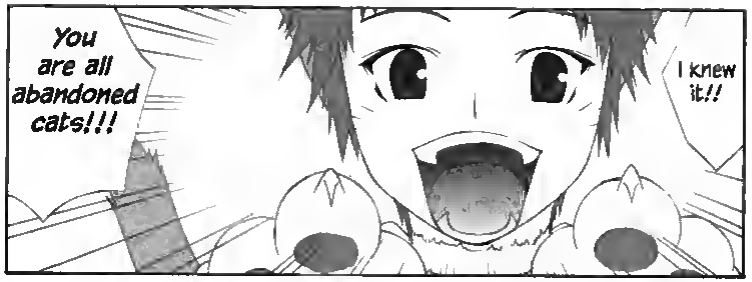
During that time, the collar becomes smaller and smaller, and it leaves its mark on you.
Especially for the young ones, as their bodies quickly grow and mature.


For the few months before you were abandoned, they didn't really care for you, did they?
And that may be a few short months for humankind but... to us, it feels like month after month.

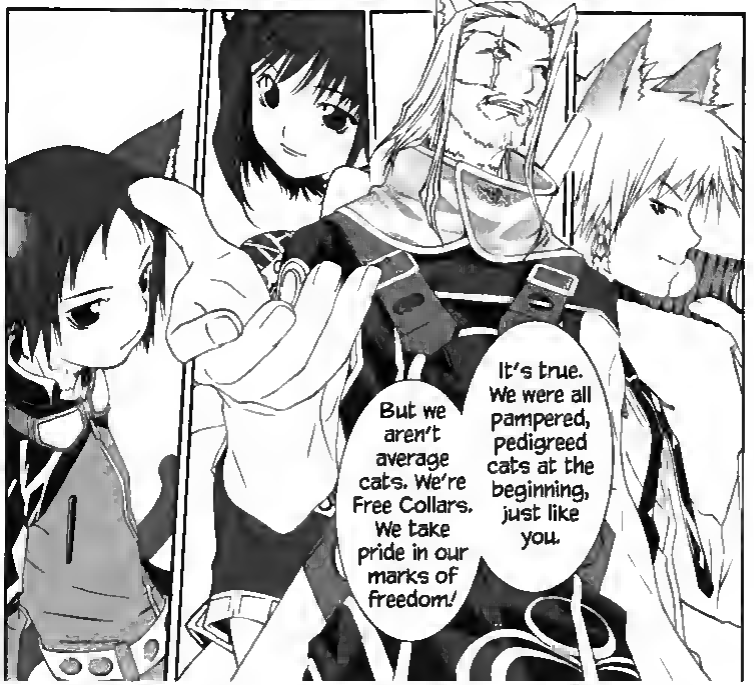
Just as if you're still wearing a collar.
It's a scar that will never heal.

It's on...all of their necks!
The old man's, too...!


And this is our town!!
A place that long ago, Wild Cat chose for his own home base. A place that people call East Ikebukuro.

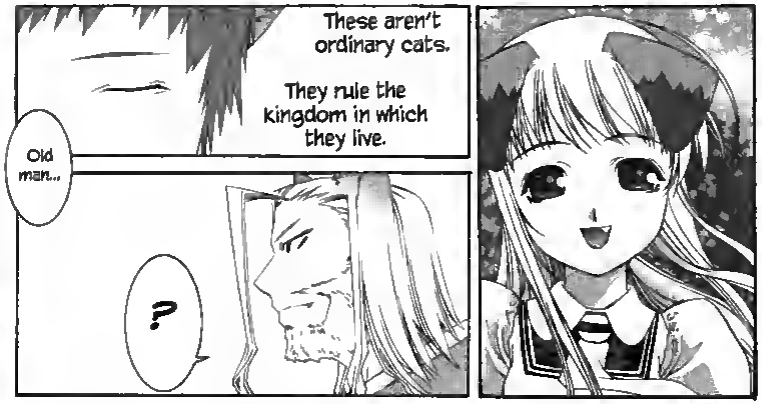

You are all abandoned cats!!!
I knew it!!

SLUMP
That idiot!!


But we aren't average cats. We're Free Collars. We take pride in our marks of freedom!
It's true. We were all pampered, pedigreed cats at the beginning, just like you.

The Free
Collars
Kingdom!!!
NOVA

Cat Tale 2 Her and the Old Guy's Situation



And with that, the battle for the territory the locals call Nyan-Man took one step toward... being more brutal!
た…ただの猫？
JUST AN ORDINARY CAT?
I get it already! So can you get me down from here?!!

Cat Tale 1 Those Who Wear Free Collars END

Um... I never introduced myself, did I?
My name is... Scottie.
But I'm not Scott
TEE
HEE

Don't I, Cyan-kun?!

S-Scottie...
.....

My name is Cyan?
Who are you talking to?! That or me?!!
NYAN-NYANS MANSION IKEBUKURO
HEE

A-And my name is—
Sh-She is so cute!!
I know it!
FWAAA

Ah!
So this is the roof of Nyan-Man!! The scenery is kinda pretty.
Oh! That building is huge!!

?!
And from now on, it'll be our secret, between you, Cat-kun, and me.

This is my secret place!
TEE HEE
The old man and the others don't know about it.
Really?

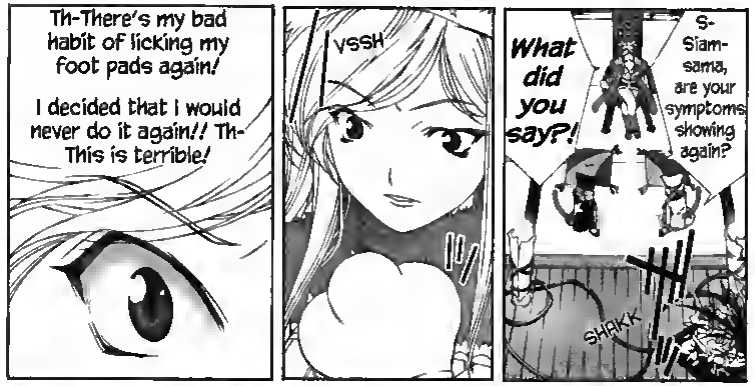
Y-You and...!

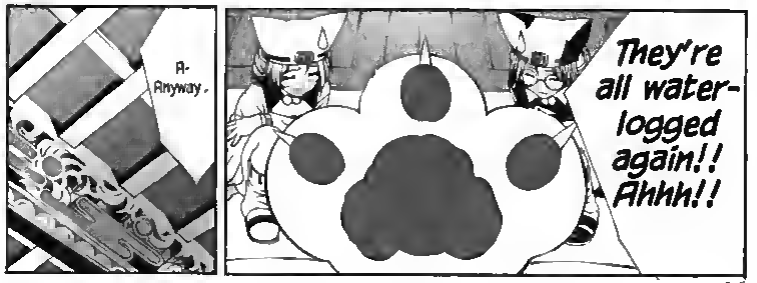
...in the basement of a strip club.
West Ikebukuro...
I never...I never thought I could endure such humiliating treatment!!
LIKKA
BLUUSSH
LIKKA
LIKKA
LIKKA
LIKKA
LIKKA
The little Kitty-chan!
But he was pretty cute...

You even mended my clothes, Scottie.
It's just fine!
Sure.
You don't have to say it so loud!! Is your wound from your battle with Siam...Is it all better?
HA HA HA
HA
TEE HEE HEE
But did you see Siam's face just then?
HEH
PURR
I had Siam!! Just a little bit longer and she'd have been completely defeated!
KLENCH
Then what the heck is my name...?
You said that the old man was looking for me, right?
O-Oh, no!

...they've got Manga no Mori, Animate, K-BOOKS, Sunshine City, Lashinbang, and if you walk a little, you can include Tora no Ana, too! Does anybody realize how envious that makes a person?!
To an anime, manga, and dôjinshi otaku like myself...
Just how long does that old otaku badger think that he can get his way?!
East Ikebukuro!! The most excellent otaku city for the otaku lifestyle!

Siam
Breed: Siamese
She represents the Siam Army, but she is feared as a vengeful cat spirit, not only because of her army, but also for her strength and stunning beauty.
Age: Unknown


Th-There's my bad habit of licking my foot pads again!
I decided that I would never do it again!! Th-This is terrible!
vssh
What did you say?!
S-Siam-sama, are your symptoms showing again?
SHAKK



I under-stand.
SHIVER
SHIVER
Ohh! I'm getting the chills!
Ha ha! And if her information is interesting, I may deign to use her as a model for my next dojinshi.

Kline!! I need information!
SHMP
Find out things about him! I don't care what, just anything!
That cute, adorable little Kitty-chan...
Yes, Siam-sama!
HEHN
If you have to remove him in the process, that's your decision.
Of course...

Yes, it's 'Bukuro!! It's gotta be 'Bukuro!
And of course...
I haven't forgotten the legends of Wild Cat either! ♡
WHOOSH

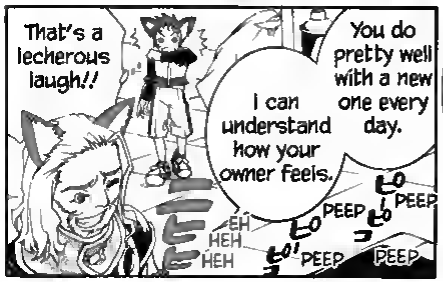
JAA
JAAAAN
Char
Breed: Chartreux
Age: 16
GRN
GRN
GRN
Tsk! I think it's pretty cool. Right, old man?
KLIKKA
KLIKKA
KLIKKA
KLIKKA
Rat
Breed: Korat
Age: 12
Look, look! Look what I got from the old man!
Heey!!!
Isn't it cool?
Isn't it cool?
Ta-dahh!!!
SHINK
SHINK
Ahh... Thaaat's good!!
CHAA
Coon
Breed: Maine Coon Cat
Age: 17
KK

Heh! Get back to your garden and make a living growing silver vine!
Amesho (Old Man)
Breed: American Short Hair
Age: Unknown
YOU WIN
Engoku-retsuka-zan!!!
Engoku-retsuka-zan!!
Waaagh!
GHOOGH
Fiery Hell, Blazing Flame Cut!!!

KLIKKA
I'm ashamed to be connected to him.
KLIKKA
KLIKKA
Aww! He's completely absorbed in games again!

L-Let me play! I'll take you on, one-on-one!!
I-it's so cool!!
The old man is wearing the exact same clothes as the character in the game! Can this be what they mean by cosplay?!

Oh, Scottie, is that a new dress you designed?
Scottie and the old man?!
?!


That's a lecherous laugh!!
You do pretty well with a new one every day.
I can understand how your owner feels.
EH HEH HEH
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP

LI-HU
HU
HU
Scottie? At his age?
Sure, but that's the kind of thing he likes.
Isn't it a little sick that the old man chases the "moe" style everyday?
No way!

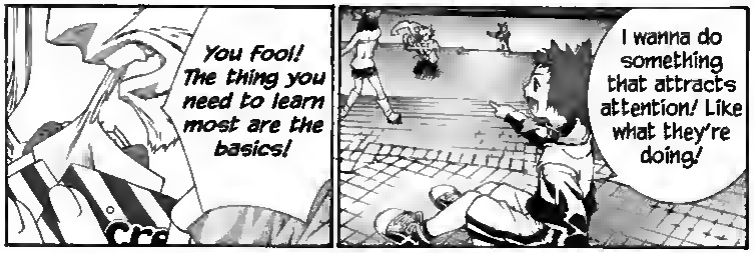
Ultimate Cat Attack!
VITCH
Ah! Now!!
Ultimate Cat Attack!

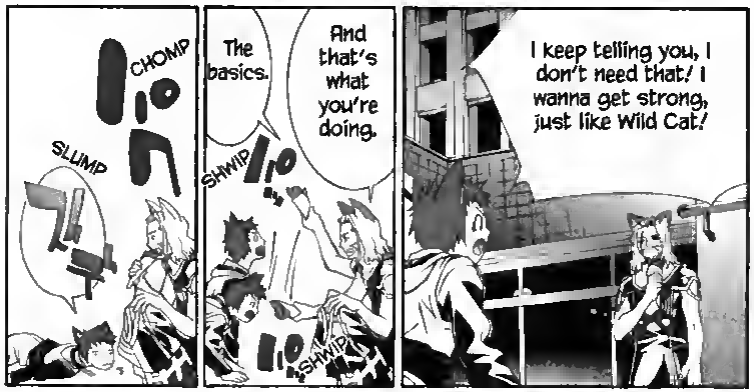
This is the style my owner likes.
Yep!

Here I go, Rat!!
WHSSH
Hyaa!
WHSSH
45
SHUMM
47
THONK
46
GRRRNNN

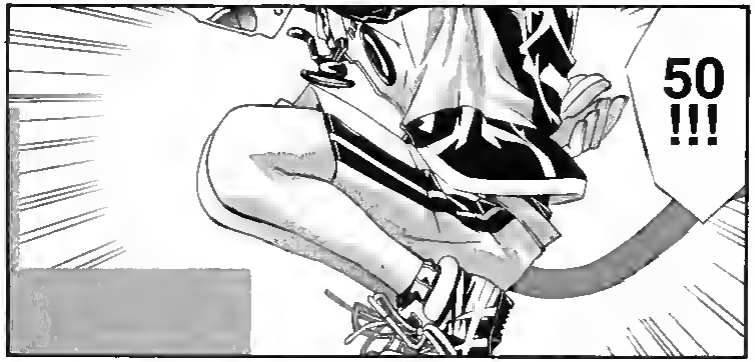
Why? I took down an enemy, too!
Say, Cat-kun, calm down!
Humph!
It'll take you a hundred million light years before you can take us on in a one-on-one contest.
Did you say one-on-one?!
TWITCH
First?
If you really want to take us on, first...
GRIN
Special training!

First of all, what's the deal with all the bunny hops?!
Why do I gotta do this? It's got nothing to do with the game!
Awww! I can't do anymore!


You fool! The thing you need to learn most are the basics!
I wanna do something that attracts attention! Like what they're doing!

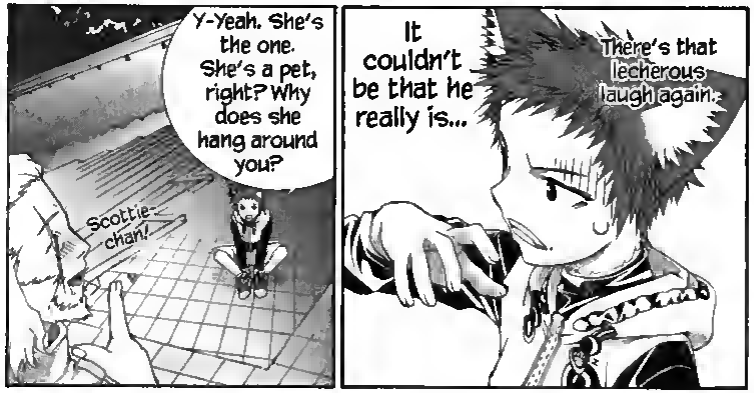

CHOMP
SLUMP
The basics.
And that's what you're doing.
SHWIP
I keep telling you, I don't need that! I wanna get strong, just like Wild Cat!

SLSS
49
SHV
SHV
SHV
SHV
48
HYFF
HYFF

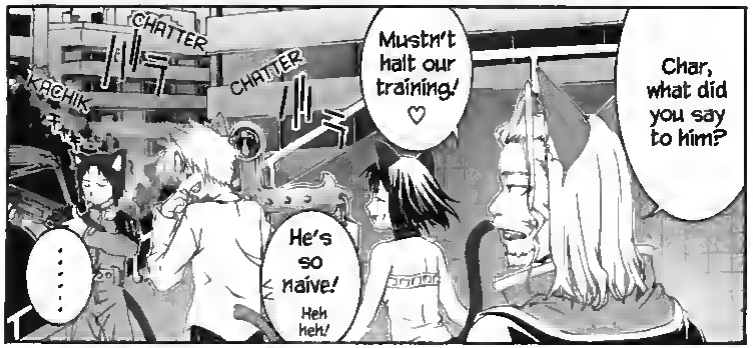

50
!!!

But behind the scenes those two have been doing everything! They've been doing this... They've been doing that... But even worse they've been doing *the other!!*
POIT
The old man's a huge otaku and has a thing for the barely legal girls! He invited her. He said, "Little girl, why don't you join us?"
POIT
Well, what do you expect?!
?
That young girl is being used!
U-Used?! She's being used?!!!

Oh!! You're talking about Scottie! Heh. She's just the cutest thing... Heh heh heh...
HEHN HEH HEH
FLIP
FLIP
That girl?!
That girl... um...
Mm?
Old Man?

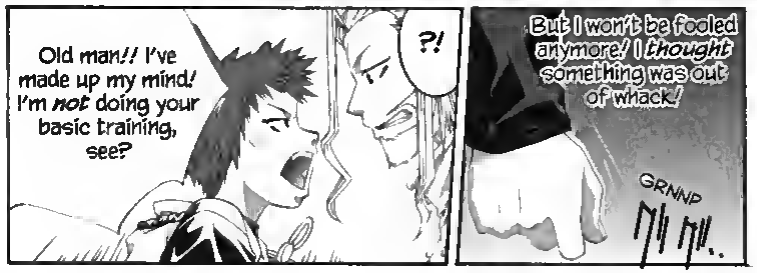

Y-Yeah. She's the one. She's a pet, right? Why does she hang around you?
Scottie-chan!
It couldn't be that he really is...
There's that lecherous laugh again.

Wh-What a jerk!
And Scottie's in...
...danger!!!!!!!
TMP
TMP


CHATTER
CHATTER
KACHIK
Mustn't halt our training! ♡
Char, what did you say to him?
He's so naive!
Heh heh!
.....

That lens in his right eye isn't just for use when he's cosplaying that character. Rumor has it that it's made to see right through Scottie's clothes!! How perverted can you get?!
But that's not all!!

Heh... heh heh heh/ I thought the Buta-san outfit you wore before was great, but today's clothes are pretty stunning...
I wasn't willing to believe it!
Th-That's what it was!
That's what [illegible] lecherous laugh was all about!


Old man!! I've made up my mind! I'm *not* doing your basic training, see?
?!
But I won't be fooled anymore! I *thought* something was out of whack!
GRNNP

Sh-She really is so cute!
How could a girl like her and an old man like him...
Here!
Hee hee
We meet here again, Cat-kun.
My owner is somebody who draws manga... Ha ha...A real fanatic.
Even fanatical about my food!
Look! This cat food was imported from overseas.
ZZZIP
?!

719
CH-CHING
TSK!!
Everybody treats me like a kid!!
CH-CHING
CH-CHING
CH-CHING
719
GANCH
Oh, no!
SST
Ah!

And I was just thinking that I'd go share this with the Old Man-sama and everyone!
FOOD

THUP
GRIMP
Scottie! We have to get far away from this apartment building!!
TMP
It's dangerous for you to hang around...
That lecherous badger of an old man!

...Th--
I have to save Scottie from that old man
No, saying that won't help!!
Cat-kun...
He has no right to expect anything like that from you!!
That isn't sharing, it's an offering, isn't it?!

L-Lecherous?!
Badger?!
O-Old man?!
?!!
Around to the Front Entr
Stop, Cat-kun!!!!
I can't do this!!
FWAMM
So for the first time in ages, we left the apartment. It was night, and on the way to the bookstore...
A little while ago, I told you about how my owner is a manga artist. When the first manga appeared in the stores, my owner wanted to go see it.
Suddenly...
TWIK
I met Ameshō-sama about three months ago.
This is not the time for talk—
A...
EMPEROR
HAW
HAW
HAW
HAW
HAW
HAW
HAW

Cat Tale 3 Nyan-Man Love

It's been quite a while, Young Lady!!!
WHSH
Wh-Who are you?!
Ha ha ha! Maybe I can demonstrate what happened next!!
?!! Ah!
It's you!! You were there!!
H-Huh? What's going on?

Cat Tale 2 Her and the Old Guy's Situation END

He snaps out of it pretty fast.
Oh, is that all?
Heh! You've got that right!
Hm?
Her strength in battle out-matches...
Don't let her insults get you down. She just doesn't like men.
Grr! "Mangy"?! Is she talking about me?
Pretty upset about it.
Humph! That lack of discipline matches the Nyan-Man old man to a tee!
Ha! Angry just because I made fun of your friend?
What?! That's an insult!!

So you remember me. I'm honored. But...
Siam's people?
S-Siam... She's one of Siam's people.
She's General Kline of the Siam Army! They say she can defeat thousands of cats single-handedly!
Cat-kun! Be careful!!
My business today is with that mangy kid next to you.

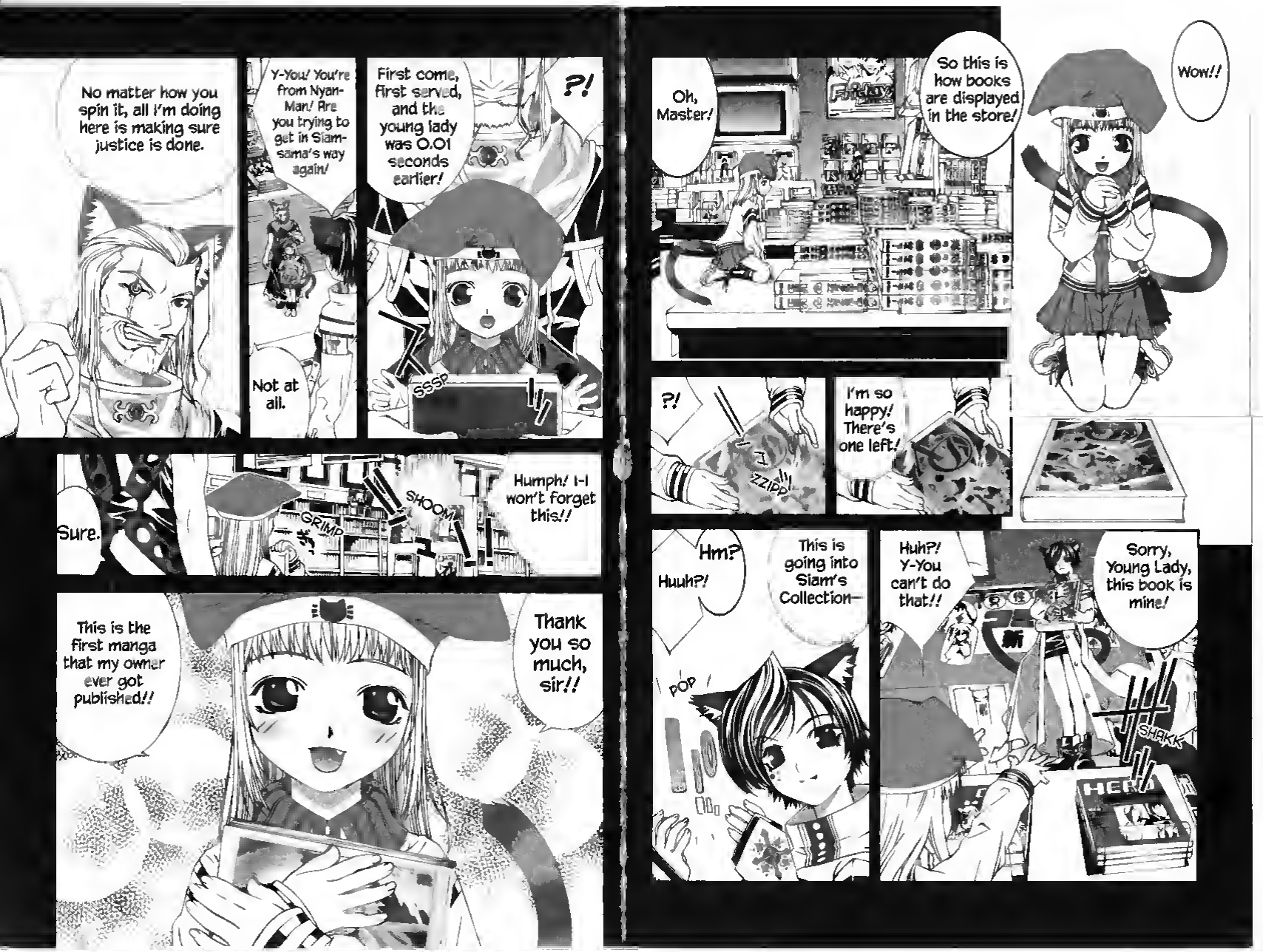
Byôgan!!!
Cat's Eyes!!!
It's the scene of when I first met Amesho-sama running through my mind.
What's that?
When you met *him*?!
Umph! Umph!
animate

That lecherous, pedophile, rotten old badger!!!
Don't classify me with that jerk! He used Scottie!!

Um... About Amesho-sama...
HUFF
If you're willing to go that far
Oh... If that's the way it is...

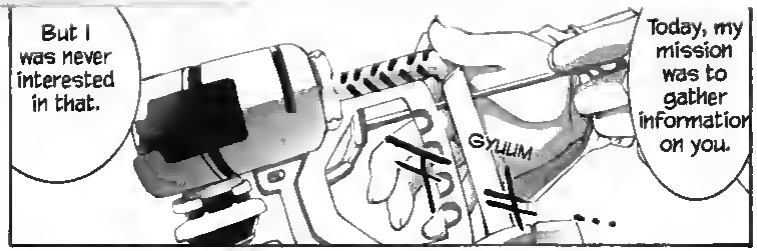
It's just like Char said! The old man wanted to *use* Scottie, and that's why he let her in the group!
Um... Cat-kun...
No, I didn't overreact! That's the *only* reason why a pet like Scottie would fight alongside the old man!!

We'll burn the old Badger's cowardly ways into the only eye he has left!!
Y-You and I aren't that far apart! If you really want your friends to go down, then let's go and make it happen!!
KEEEEEEE


No matter how you spin it, all I'm doing here is making sure justice is done.
Y-You! You're from Nyan-Man! Are you trying to get in Siam-sama's way again!
Not at all.
First come, first served, and the young lady was 0.01 seconds earlier!
?!
SSSP
Sure.
GRIMP
SHOOM
Humph! I-I won't forget this!!
This is the first manga that my owner ever got published!!
Thank you so much, sir!!
Oh, Master!
So this is how books are displayed in the store!
Wow!!
?!
ZZIPP
I'm so happy! There's one left!
Hm?
Huuh?!
This is going into Siam's Collection—
POP
Huh?! Y-You can't do that!!
Sorry, Young Lady, this book is mine!
SHAKK
新
HERO

Eh? Ehh?!
Quiet!
S-Sir—
?!
WHSSH
Young lady...
Kyaaaaa!!
DOOOOOM
...then I'll turn you to ashes.
If you try to make me to give it up—
KRACHAK
Hmph!
You're still not willing to give it up?
Th-The book...
Well... I live in the basement...
Yep!
Hm?! You mean you're a pet of someone living here?
You live in this apartment building, too, sir?
But...
TEE HEE
HA HA HA HA
If I were a human, they'd call me a squatter!
It's a very nice place

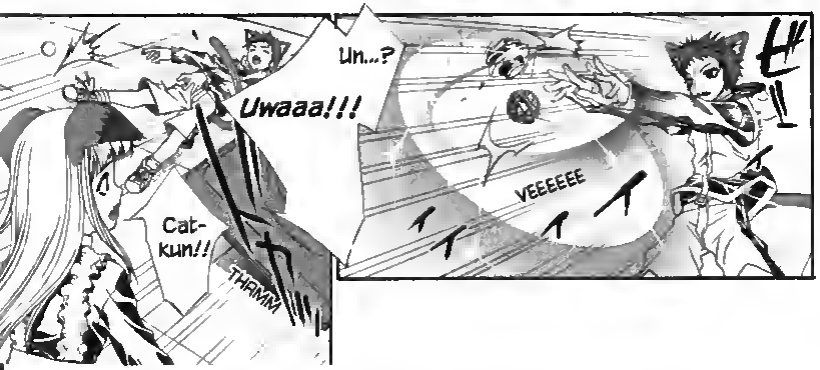
So Amesho of the Free Collars is finally buried!!!
It was probably just coincidence, but you showed yourself to be a fine knight protector.
Old man-sama!!!
...such...
How could you?! In all my life I've never seen...
Oh, what'll I do?! I'm sorry! I'm sorry, sir!!
Hyaa!!
Noooo!!
TMP
HEH
SPAS
SSSH
DO-WHAM
?!!
Mm..?


But I was never interested in that.
GYULIM
Today, my mission was to gather information on you.

Not after my heart and soul just got themselves saved!
Ha!! Sorry I can't accommodate you!
WOOSH

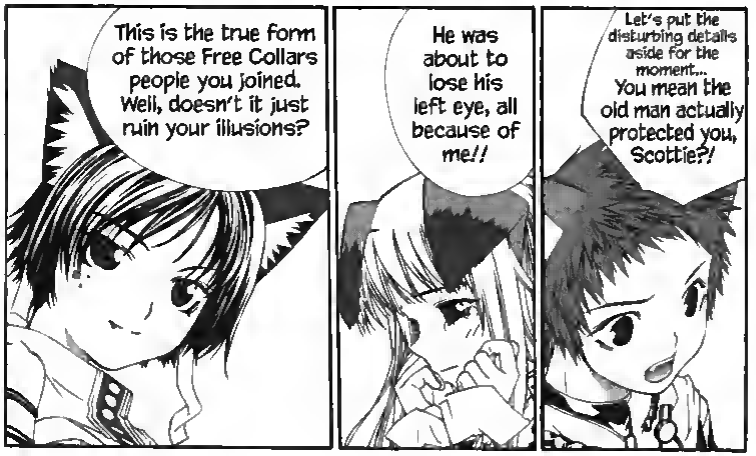
It's time to send your heart and soul straight into the abyss!!
BLAMM

...would never play with her heart!
I made a mistake! A man who would allow himself to be wounded for the sake of a girl....


Un...?
Uwaaa!!!
VEEEEEE
Cat-kun!!
THAMM

2匹。
Both girls staring in stunned silence.
This is why he tops by every so often.
Y-You broke the base of a limited edition figure from Urushihara-sensei's Dark Crimson series!!!

放心状態な2匹と1匹...
Both girls staring in stunned silence plus one more.


This is the true form of those Free Collars people you joined. Well, doesn't it just ruin your illusions?
He was about to lose his left eye, all because of me!!
Let's put the disturbing details aside for the moment... You mean the old man actually protected you, Scottie?!

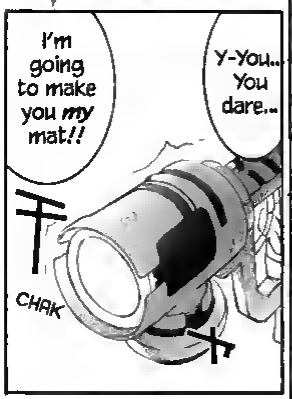
I-Is he some kind of moron? There's no way I'd ever be enticed by his hand like that! It won't work! It won't! It...
Index Finger Sniff!!!
Hitosashi-Kagikagi!!
Wh-What?!
POOOM
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
I-I had to do it!!
On the other hand...
THERE! THERE!
POIT
Such a dangerous scent!
When we cats see the tip of something, we just have to go over and sniff it!

It's that cheap sentimentality that burns me up!
You're just going to make excuses for the old man, right?
GRN
GRN
GRN
GRN
GRN
Aaa!!
Come to think of it, you're a part of that group, too!
No!
She isn't!!
Scottie!!
Is that what Scottie's going to do?
?!
Wh-What's this?!
Ultimate Cat Attack 3!!
WHOOSH
Eh? Eh?!
Scottie! Shut your eyes tight!!

And the other reason...
Uh m
GULP
The first reason is to make sure those idiot strays don't get my Siam into any dangerous situations.
So I'll let you know why I became a general in charge of those men I hate!

Me, too!
Hey! I always wanted a mat like this!!
Listen to me!!

Those are the reasons!!
Men are just perfect to be my slaves!!
AH
HA
HA
HA
HA


I'm going to make you my mat!!
Y-You.. You dare...
CHAK

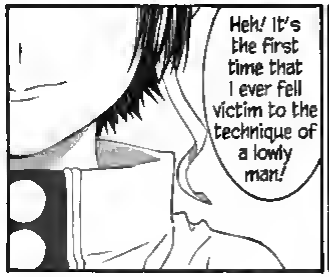
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
H-Hey! You two!!

Hm? What's this?

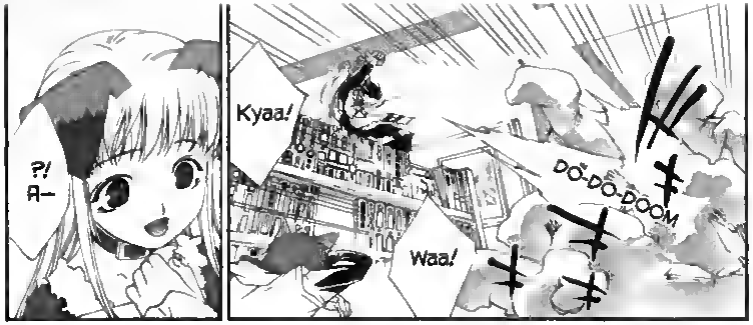
Raaah!
What took you so long?

Scottie, get in here!!

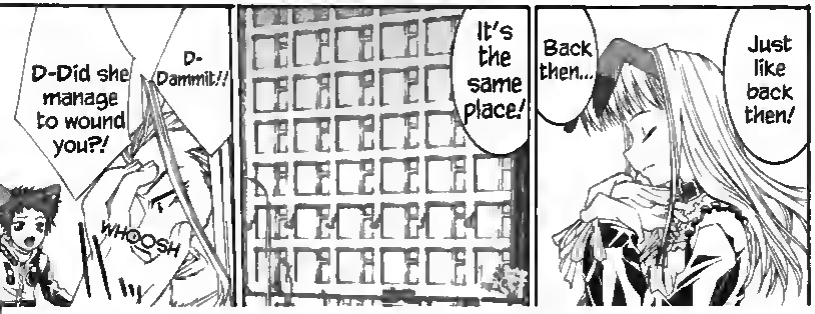
H-Here?! But...


Heh! It's the first time that I ever fell victim to the technique of a lowly man!

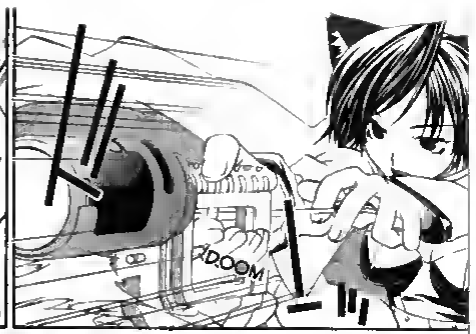
FUJIMA EXHI
It's a showing of Master's art?!


?!
A—
Kyaa!
Waa!
DO-DO-DOOM

Amesho-sama!!
SHHWISH


D-Did she manage to wound you?!
D-Dammit!!
WHOOSH
It's the same place!
Back then...
Just like back then!

Eh?!
E-Eyaaa!
VZZM


DOOM

Scottie?!!

NOOOO!!
VRM

GYEE
EE
EE
EEN

Ultimate Cat Attack, Galactica Typhoon!!!
DWOOM
He'll be sucked in and taken down!!
?! There's no comparison between what we saw before and this monster!!
GASHEEE
EE
EEN
H-He was able to take it?!!

Y-You don't have to make it an exact replay!!
Yes, this is why he stops by every so often.
Sh-She broke the base of the latest limited edition figure from the Dark Crimson series!!!
Urushihara-sense, I'm so sorry!!

Not really. I manage to get some fun out of it.
Humph! Mr. Old and Decrepit. It must be a pain living with one eye.

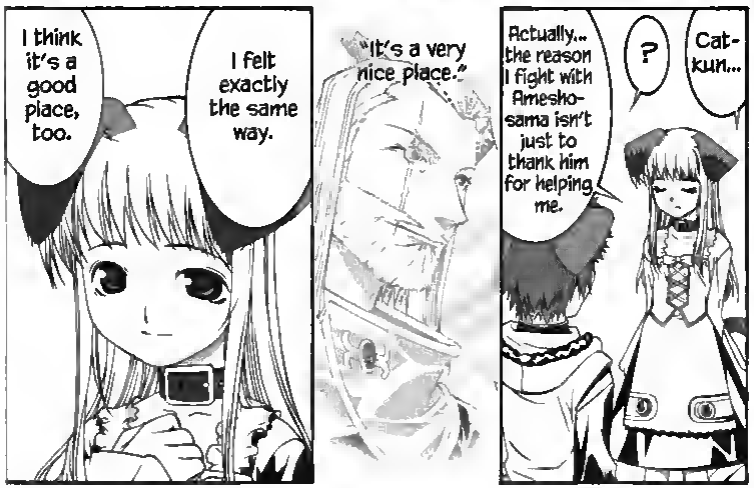
You're going for a ride!!
This time, I really will send you into the darkness!

You two get out of here. She's my enemy.

WHOOM
WHOOM
ZAK
ZAK
SHUUM
SHUUM
TMP
VATCH
VOOSH
Tsk!
?!

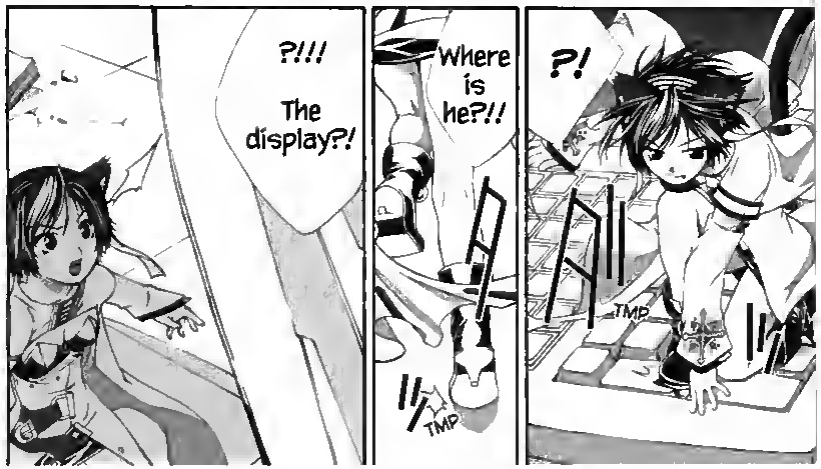
One never loses one's basic training! It'll take more than that to get to me!
Heh! You didn't know that I'm also a body-building otaku!
Khh...
GRRMMP
Basic train-ing...
You can see how strong he is just by looking!
I'm *not* doing your basic training, see?
SHUU
Hya!!
UU

BOOOM!
HEHN
Oh, honestly!
What'll we do with you?
Ha...ha ha...
It's so... dark...
KRRRRK
IYA FUJIN
RT EX


I think it's a good place, too.
I felt exactly the same way.
"It's a very nice place."
Actually... the reason I fight with Amesho-sama isn't just to thank him for helping me.
?
Cat-kun...

You've got exact change, huh? ♡
?!!
GACHING
WAR!!
Ha!
TMP

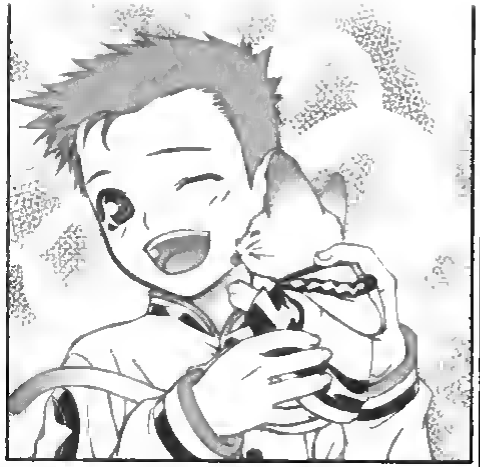
Everybody's a comedian!!

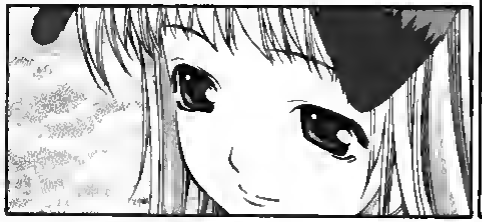

?!!!
The display?!
Where is he?!!
TMP
?!
TMP

And I want to protect Nyan-Man along with everybody there.

Ultimate Cat Attack! Engoku-ret-sukazan!!!
SHOOSH
Fiery Hell, Blazing Flame Cut!!!

SHOOOM
S-Siam-sama!!!



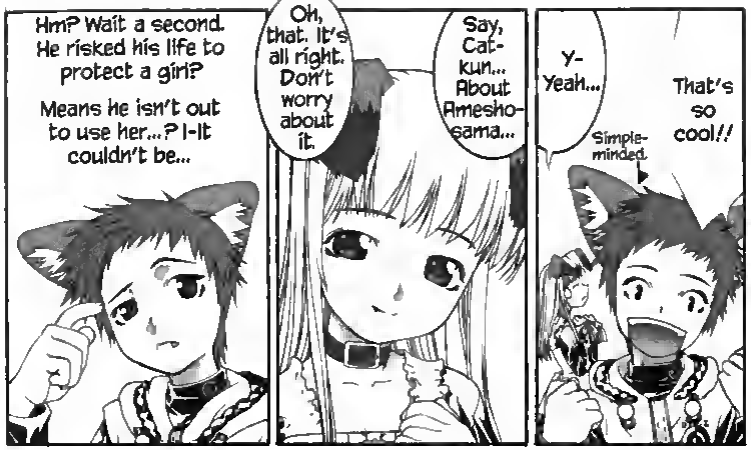


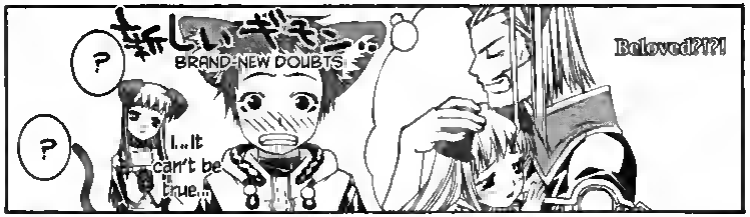
I get that, Scottie.

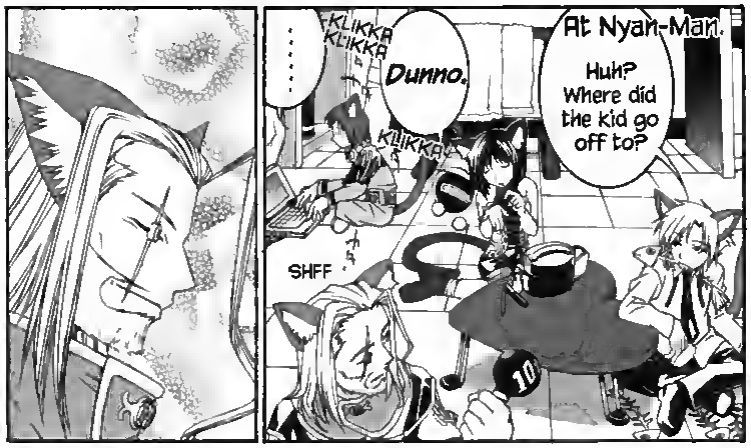
And to make you take responsibil-ity, you'll feel the brunt of my attack!
And you managed to scar me up, too.
BLUUUUSH

I can't warm up to anybody who points a weapon at a cute little girl.
I...hate that guy...

Here goes!!
WHOOSH

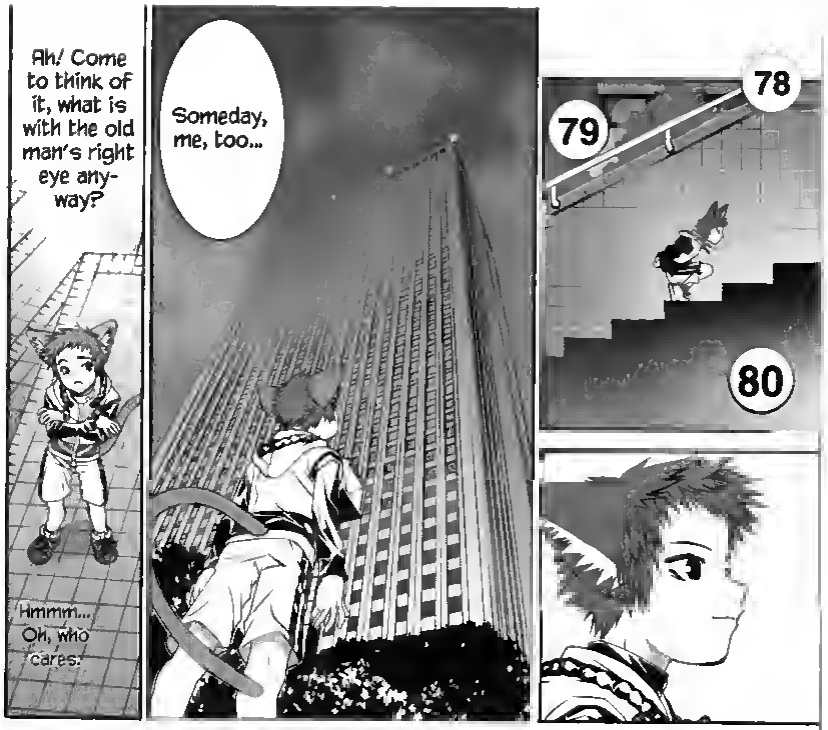

Hm? Wait a second. He risked his life to protect a girl?
Means he isn't out to use her...? I-It couldn't be...
Oh, that. It's all right. Don't worry about it.
Say, Cat-kun... About Ameshosama...
Y-Yeah...
Simple-minded.
That's so cool!!

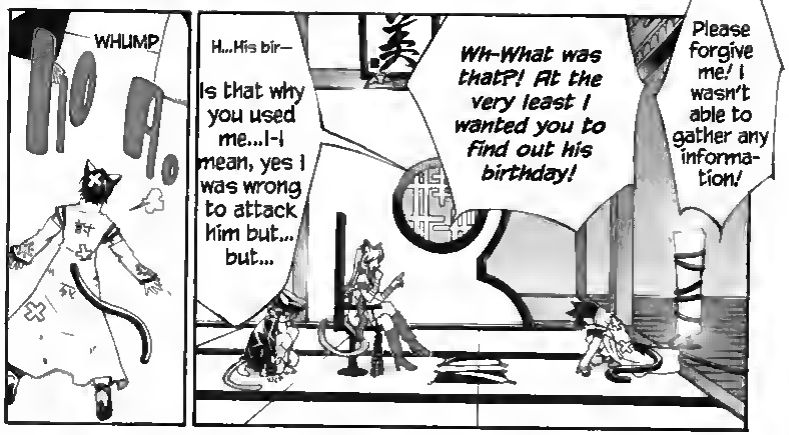

新しいぎもー
BRAND-NEW DOUBTS
?
?
I...It can't be true...
Beloved?!?!


KLIKKA KLIKKA
Dunno.
KLIKKA
SHFF
At Nyan-Man.
Huh? Where did the kid go off to?

DWOO
Heh! Get back to your garden and make a living growing silver vine!
O-One strike?
B-But he did it all exactly like the game...

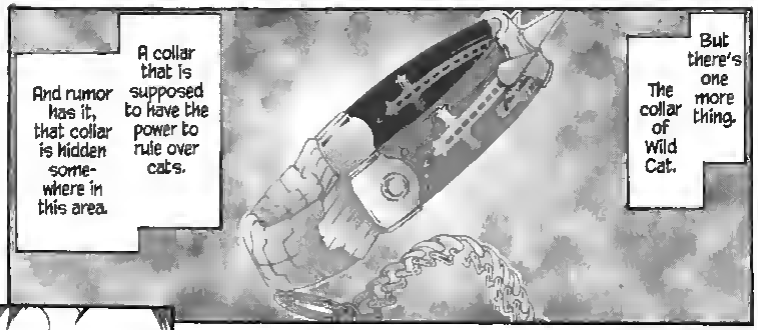
Cat Tale 4 Meow of the Heart

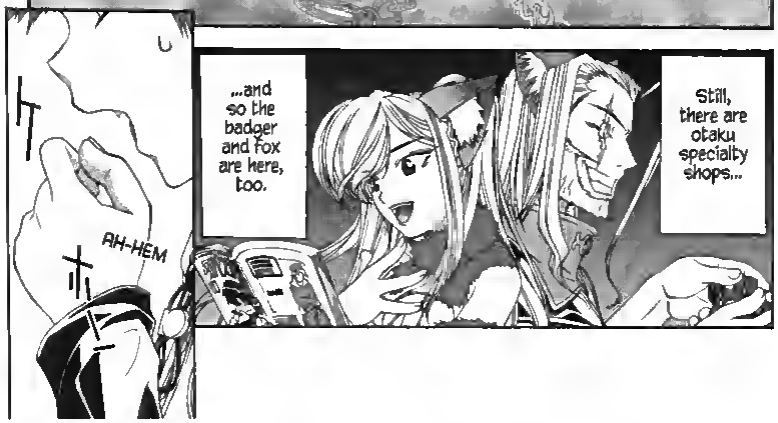



WHUMP
H...His bir—
Is that why you used me...I-I mean, yes I was wrong to attack him but... but...
Wh-What was that?! At the very least I wanted you to find out his birthday!
Please forgive me! I wasn't able to gather any information!

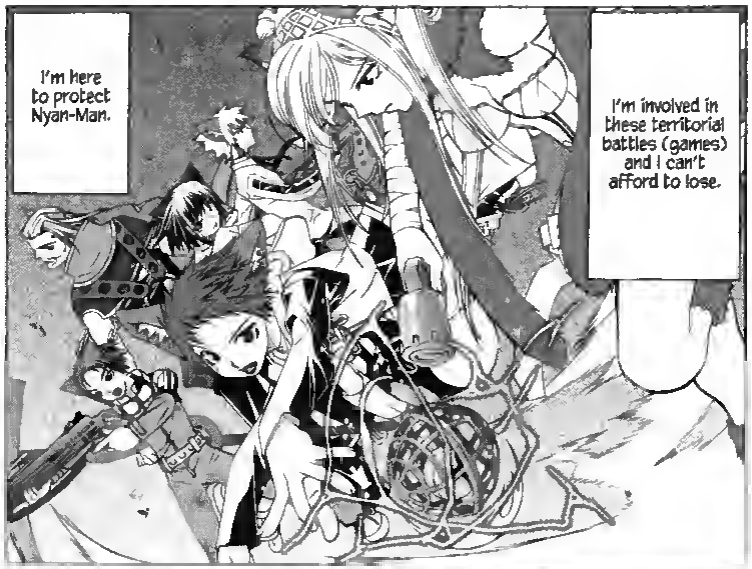
Cat Tale 3 Nyan-Man Love END

And Nyan-Man was where this cat called his home.
He could boast of a strength that even a thousand cats couldn't hope to defeat!
Wild Cat! I pay respect to the cat he was.


And rumor has it, that collar is hidden somewhere in this area.
A collar that is supposed to have the power to rule over cats.
The collar of Wild Cat.
But there's one more thing.


AH-HEM
...and so the badger and fox are here, too.
Still, there are otaku specialty shops...

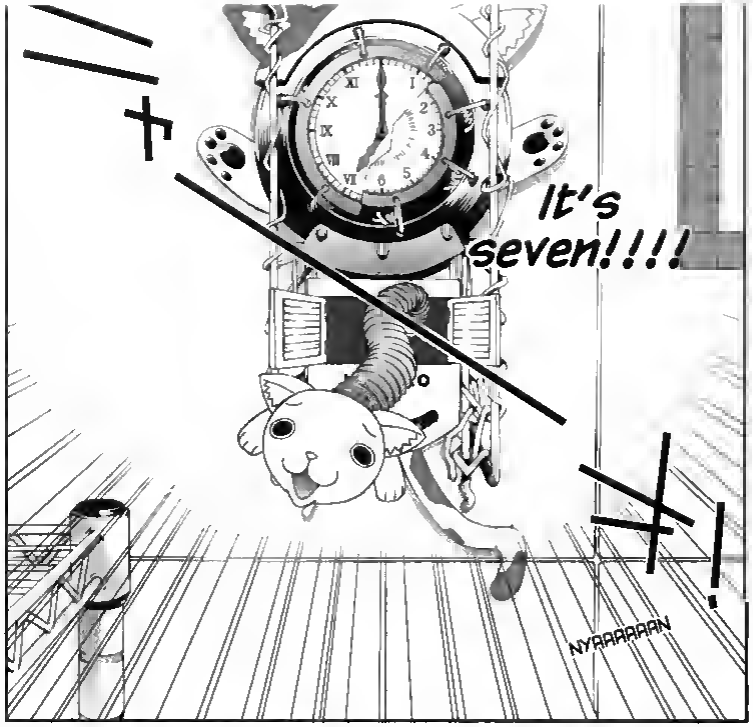
...what's behind it is a legendary cat.
As the newest member, I don't understand it all, but...
And among those, Nyan-Man is especially popular.
...is at the center of East Ikebukuro, the place of the most desperate stray-cat territorial battles.
Nyan-Nyans Mansion, where I live...
ARC-MART

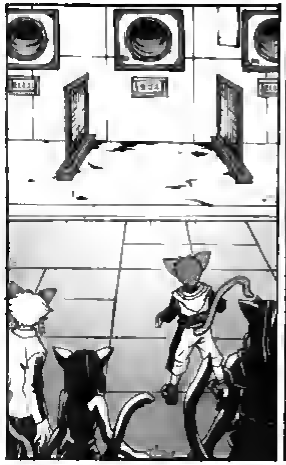

That's why I decided to wait for him right here.
Still, I'm sure that Kokoro-kun will come back for me.
I was Kokoro-kun's pet cat.
What about me? Well, there was a family with a young boy named Kokoro-kun living in Nyan-Man.
Yes...
But...things happened...and I was abandoned by Kokoro-kun's parents.
Of course, it isn't an *easy* life.
There are cats in the basement of Nyan-Man who have been here for quite a while. I'm living with them now.

I'm here to protect Nyan-Man.
I'm involved in these territorial battles (games) and I can't afford to lose.
And that "death match" starts at 7:00 AM!!
...there's a "death match" that I have to clear to be sure I won't lose the territorial battles.
But before that...
TIK

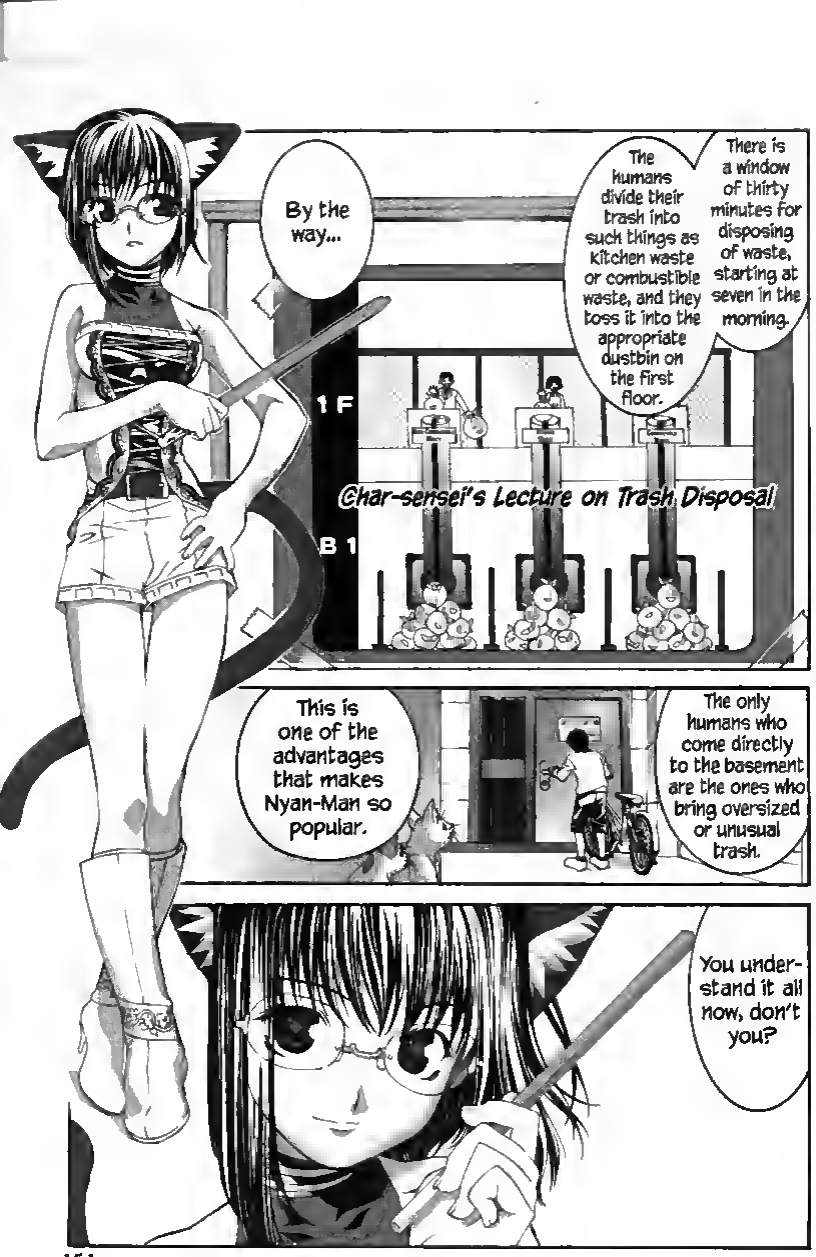
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP

Do
oo
rya
aa
aa
aa!!!


It's seven!!!!
NYAAAAAAN



NYAAN
NYAAN
NYAAN


By the way...
There is a window of thirty minutes for disposing of waste, starting at seven in the morning.
The humans divide their trash into such things as kitchen waste or combustible waste, and they toss it into the appropriate dustbin on the first floor.
1 F
Char-sensei's Lecture on Trash Disposal
B 1
This is one of the advantages that makes Nyan-Man so popular.
The only humans who come directly to the basement are the ones who bring oversized or unusual trash.
You understand it all now, don't you?

Isn't there any cat food in here?
You're all supposed to give preference to your elders!!
What does that mean? You won't get it! I'll bet you a cooked mouse that I get it first!
Fish! Fish! Fish! Where's the fish!
I'm getting the best one today!!
BASH
BISH
RIIP
CHUNCH
GONNG
D-Dammit!!!!
Rotten at learning new things.
?
?!
A-Are you doing that again?
Combustible Trash
That's... That's the area for combustible trash.
The people of this apartment building follow the rules for disposing of trash!
I swear, Kid...!
You still don't remember?!
FUCK!

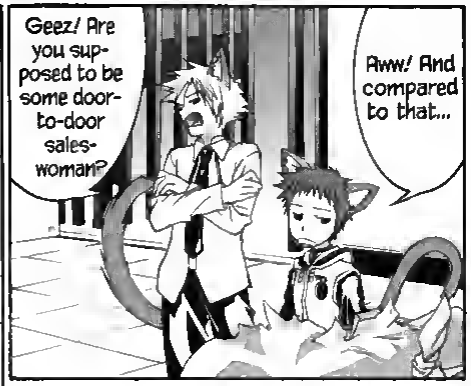
?! There it's started again. I told you not to rely on us so much!
Aaaargh! Somebody give me some cat food!!

That fragrant fragrance! The fabulous crunchy texture...but even so, it floats its way down my throat like marshmallows!
And a guaranteed perfect balance of nutrition!

Cat food!!!
Look, we may be a group, but we aren't friends! If you need something, get it for yourself!!

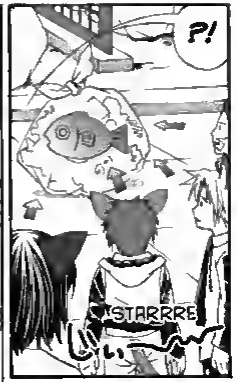
THROB

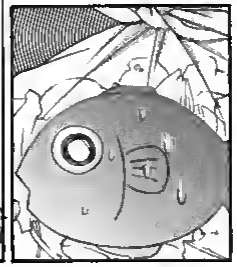
Hey, kid!


Geez! Are you supposed to be some door-to-door saleswoman?
Aww! And compared to that...

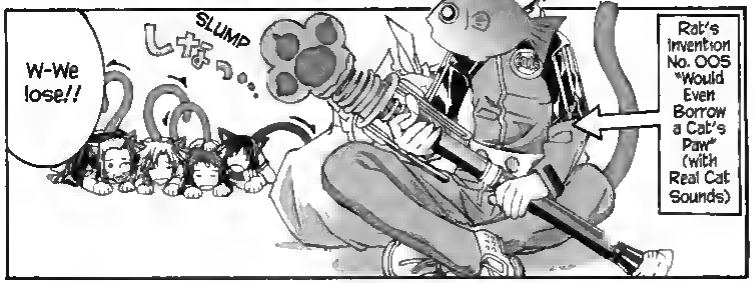
Suddenly...

Hm?!
WHOOSH
It's mine!!
GWIP


?!
STARRRE

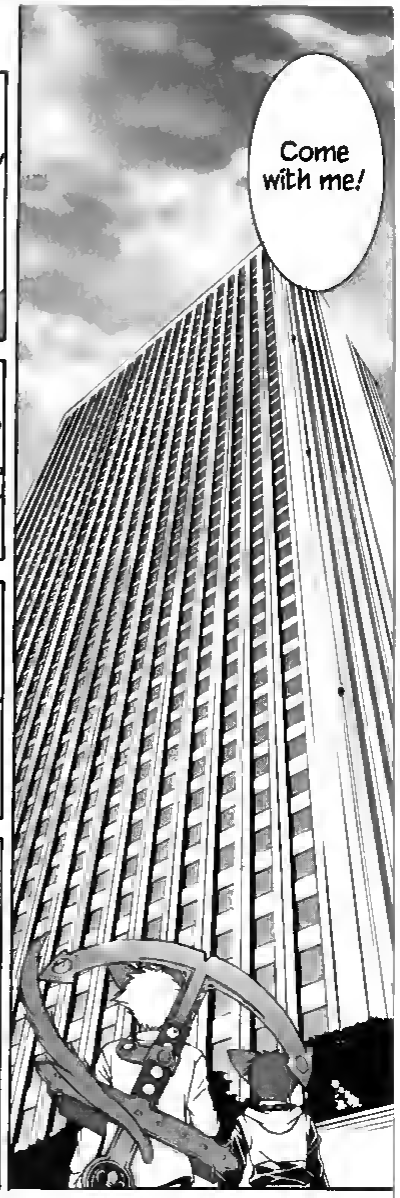


Did you use that dirty machine again?
R-Rat...
TREMBLE TREMBLE


W-We lose!!
SLUMP
しな…
Rat's Invention No. 005 "Would Even Borrow a Cat's Paw" (with Real Cat Sounds)

But he did keep up with my speed.
Tsk! After only going up ten flights of stairs.
I'm gonna die! I'm so hungry!
HUFF
HUFF
?!
Oh! It's Cat-kun!
Scottie! What are you doing here?
TMP

You're living here now! Get used to it already!
It's huge! Enormous! It's really big!!
If any human sees you, I don't know you, got it?
Wow!
Well, only if you can keep up with my lightning speed.
We're going!!
Huh? Can't we take it easy?

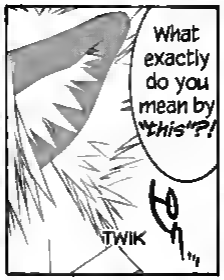

Come with me!

Now do you get it, kid?!!
Where else can you live in a city, but eat fish from the world over?!
Heh! That's the whole reason I'm living in Nyan-Man.
You idiot! It's an aquarium! Coming from all over the world are fish, fish, fish!
WRG
I-it's the most wonderful thing I ever heard!!
Hey! That's the planetarium, you fool!
PLANETA
Fish! Fish!!

Penguins?! In a place like this?
I came to see the penguins.
?!
I...
Whoah!
That's right, kid. Today, I'm giving you a special treat that only a cat lord like me would know about.
An aquarium?! I wanna see that!!!
SHINE WORLD AQUARIUM
It's a special preview one day before the opening of the Sunshine Aquarium!!

Now swim !!!
Ultimate Cat Attack! Ikari Kazekiri Ken!!!!
BA-SHAAAA
Anchor Leading-Edge Cut!!!!

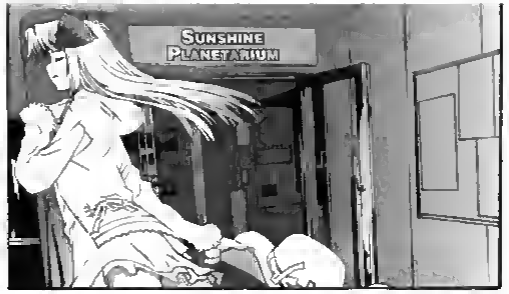
Hch!
BLORSH


What exactly do you mean by "this"?!
TWIK

Come on now! You don't need a fighter attack for this!

E-Eh?!!
Divine Retribution!!!
THWAKK

SUNSHINE PLANETARIUM


SUNSHINE PLANETARIUM

Oh, one thing I forgot to mention.
Just look at all the food!! All you can eat!

That's right!
Swimming?

Right!
Let's go, Kid!

And we specialize in swimming!!
My breed, the Maine Coon Cat, is a ship cat that went to America with the immigrants.

Easy for you to say!
Look! Behind you, behind you!
Don't think you're gonna get away with this!
Then eat them! Eat them until you're full!!
Fight them, Cyan! Win!!
VWIP
Is it because he's that breed—the breed of house cat that's closest to the wild? Abyssinian?
He managed that maneuver even in water!
?!
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB

?!
C-Cat-kun! Look around you...
?!
Heh... Eh?
Aaah!! Wh-What do you think you're doing?!
SPLOOSH
E-Eyaaaaa!!
Wh-What did you say?!!
It says that they eat cats, too!!
Piranha
Environment The Amazon
Size 25 cm.
Hey, this sign says that piranha are meat eaters!

Ultimate Cat Technique!

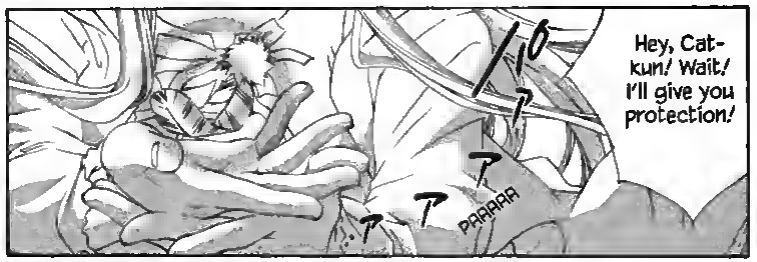
If that's the case...
Hm? I'm submerged, but still my body is pretty stable.

?!

I can try this!!

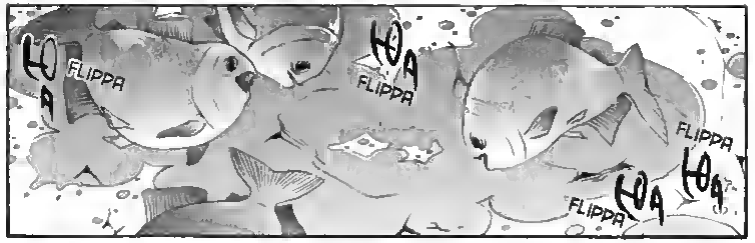
And...
This could be the result of his recent basic training.
There was his work on the stairs...
No...

GWOO
...his Wild Spirit!


Hey, Cat-kun! Wait! I'll give you protection!
PAAAAA

Ultimate Cat Attack!
Suisei! Rin-Rai-Dan!!!
DWOO
DOOOM
Comet-Bell-Thunder-Shot!!!

Cat-kun!!
GASHEE
EE
EE
Gotcha!
Now!

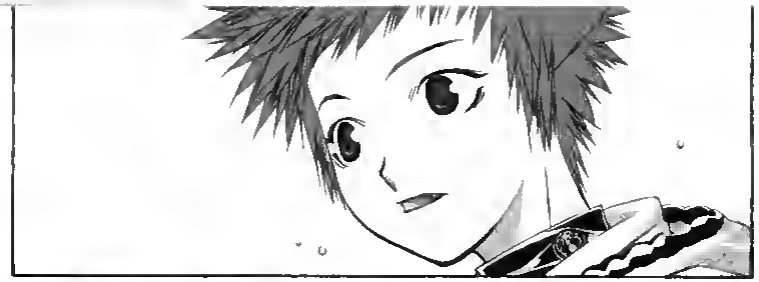

FLIPPA
FLIPPA
FLIPPA
FLIPPA

CHAK
This is what it means to be alive!!

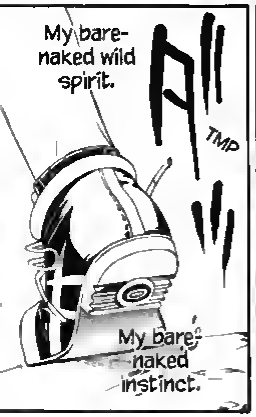
That's right.
Coon! Were you trying to kill me?!

?!

We're here to eat our prey!



Get it now, kid?!


My bare-naked wild spirit.
TMP
My bare-naked instinct.

SIGH...
Good! I'll get two or three more!

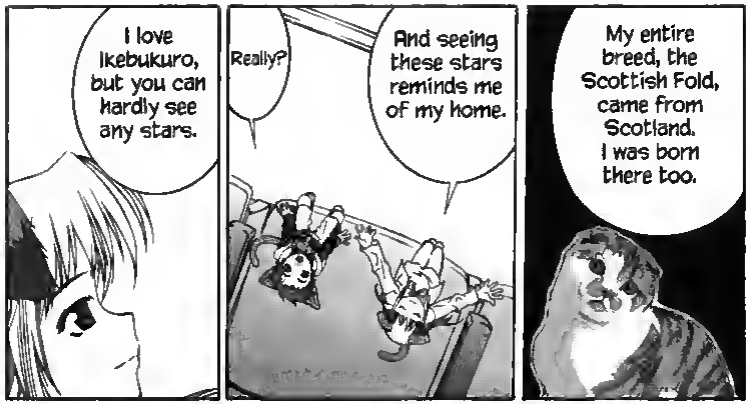
Y... Yeah...

Whoaaa!
Just looking at this guy, I get the feeling that I can even hear the crashing of the ocean's waves!
This isn't bad! Not bad at all!!
Me, too!!
.....
Men! Honestly!
Maybe I'll give it a try, too.
TEE HEE

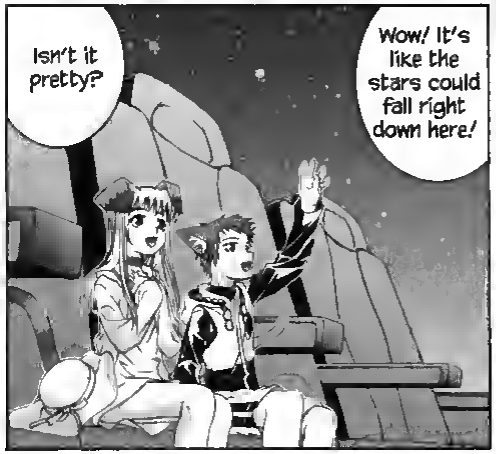
Look at them all! Maybe we caught too many.

I *told* him to eat every fish he caught!!
Dammit, that dummy Cyan! Where'd he disappear to?

That's the *Law* of the Free Collars!
VWIP
But my stomach hurts!


I love Ikebukuro, but you can hardly see any stars.
Really?
And seeing these stars reminds me of my home.
My entire breed, the Scottish Fold, came from Scotland. I was born there too.

Listen!
The sound of waves against the Scottish shore. The gusts of wind...
But when I come here and really listen, I feel that I can hear it...
SH
HH
SH
HH
HH

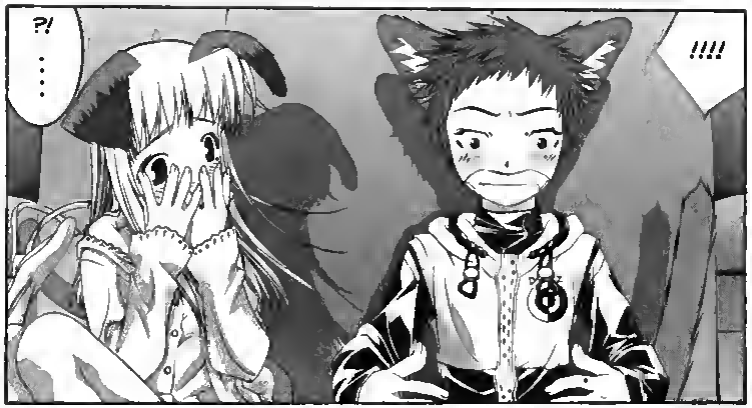

Isn't it pretty?
Wow! It's like the stars could fall right down here!

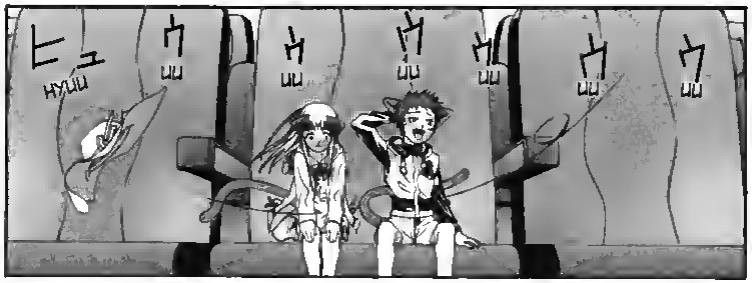
Commencing a test run before opening.
SUNSHINE PLANETARIUM

The actual reason why I wanted to come to Sunshine... was I wanted to be here.
Cat-kun...
?

Huh? D-Dunno...
Hm? Where's Coon-san?

So... it ended up with me not eating anything.
A-After seeing that, I lost my appetite.





Cat Tale 4 Meow of the Heart END

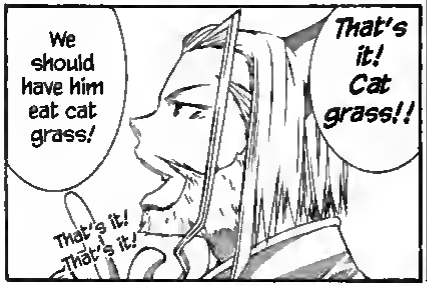
Cat Tale 5 O Holy Night's Caterwaul

Scornful 軽蔑の GLARE
Stare 視線
Get your-selves to work right now!!
Shut up! Women shouldn't laugh with their mouths wide open like that!!
Ah ha ha ha ha! Now you made him angry!
Ha!
GAK
You're not work-ing either, Char!!!
And I have a lot of preparing to do, so leave me alone!
My band has a live Christmas concert tomorrow!
I told you already!

Hiyaaa!!
Nya ha ha ha! Here we go!!
WHSSH
What do you think you're doing?!
Hey! Cyan! Coon!
Nya ha ha!
Now we're in for it!
SHFF
SHFF

Normally we spit the fur back up...
...but I'd bet that the fur has become a large, hardened hairball in his stomach.

So he's trying to throw up a hair ball...


We should have him eat cat grass!
That's it!
That's it!
That's it! Cat grass!!

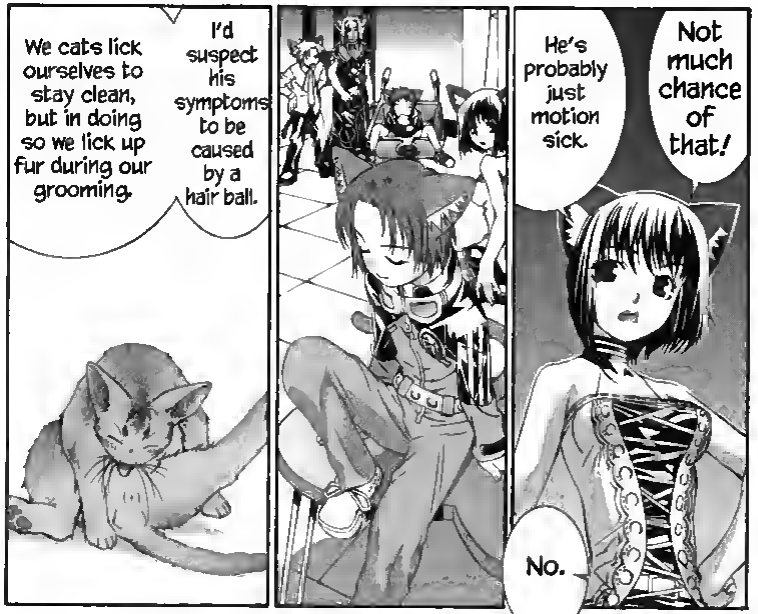
AHEM!
We all know that! Just how inexperienced do you think we are?
STARE
He didn't know!
He didn't know!

I get it, old man! I resist you a little, and you do this! Well just grow up!!
Why me?! I don't want to! Why do I have to care for the kid?!

M-
Me?!
Hey, Char!

GAH!
Wake up!!!
Admin's Beyond This Point!
Hey, kid!! Hey!
SCHNO
Not one of them does what they're told!
OOR OOR

What's with him? Some new Ultimate Cat Attack?!
GWEEEHHH


We cats lick ourselves to stay clean, but in doing so we lick up fur during our grooming.
I'd suspect his symptoms to be caused by a hair ball.
He's probably just motion sick.
Not much chance of that!
No.

Let's do it!
Yeah? Then... Then they've got cat food...?!
...here? Not a chance! They sell it here.
Is any grass supposed to be growing...
If we go to a pet shop, we can find just about anything we need.
We don't have to look for cat grass nowadays.
I-I was just...
In your condition?
For some reason I feel I'm getting teased a little harder and rockier than normal
Picking on him!
Huh? Little boy! You're hungry?

Oh, hell!
HUSSSSH
Urk...
GLEEEEH
HYUU
TOKYU NYANS

HAPPY XMAS
The top floor of Tokyu Nyans is the prime spot for cat-related goods!
Here!

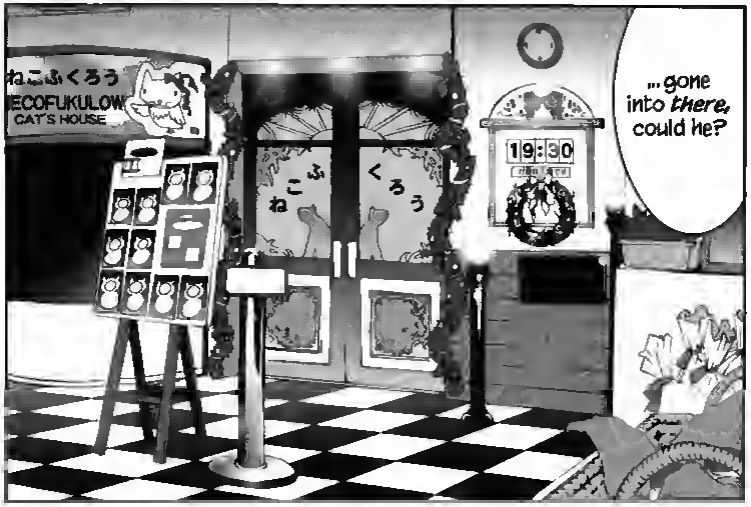
Go ahead and eat it if you can!
You get your heart's desire... cat food!! ♡
Stop it...!
And then... And then...
Hey! You get busy licking, and get that hair ball thrown up already!?
Who eats cat grass anymore!
And here it is! The latest development in cat grass!
TA-DAH

I'm really busy with prepping for the performance!
Hey, when you're finished with your "business," let's get home. Like I said before...
That scent... Where's it from...
?!
Gleh... Gleh... I think it's making me even more ill.
SICK-MAKING

H-He couldn't have...
?!

Hey! What's with the sudden disappearing act?
SUDDEN

But live performances are great! Even if something bad happens, suddenly...


ねこふくろう
ECOFUKULOW
CAT'S HOUSE
19:30
...gone into there, could he?

KREE
Geez! That little brat!!

.....

!
Well, I haven't seen you around. Are you new?
You're Abyssinian, aren't you? Your markings are so handsome!
PURR
PURR
PURR
NYAAA
PURR
PURR
NYAAA
What a cute boy you are!
I was a pet until just recently.

It's her!!

Hey!! You, over there!!!

I knew it!
Now's the time when I would most like to suddenly forget you!!

Cat House Kingdom

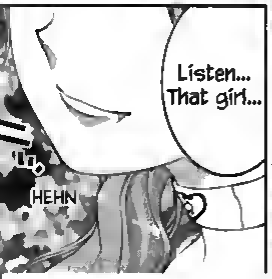
You know all these pretty cats?!
Char ?!
Really?! You two know each other?

Of course! In fact there probably aren't any cats here who don't know Char.
A-Again?! Stupid kid!
Is that so? Are you one of Char's dear friends?
PURR
PURRRRR

I'll tell him.
Oh, let him hear. It isn't a secret.

Come on! We're going home!!!
BAM
That doesn't have anything to do with you!!
Ehhh?!

Hey! Why do they all know you, Char?
CAT HOUSE


Listen... That girl...
HEHN

SIGH
It's been a while, Sariya.

And you've changed quite a bit in the time.

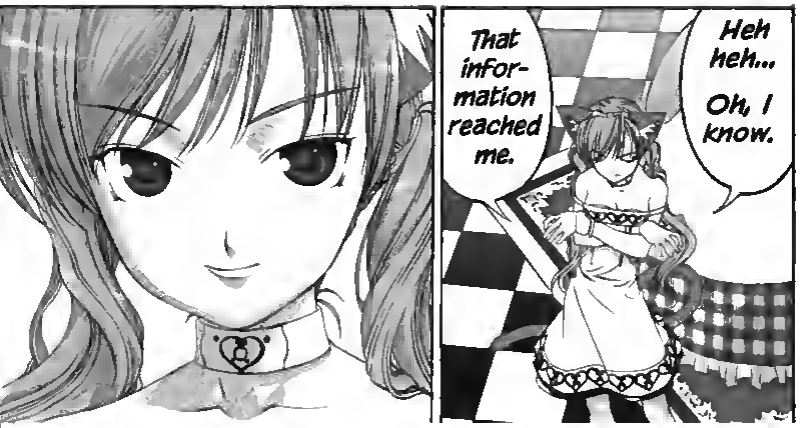
Hm?!
You! If it isn't Char!
Oh, you mean that Char.
It's true!

It's pretty shameless to come waltzing in here!
From all of the rumors I hear, you... decided to become a stray.

THIS MONTH'S DESERTER
She used to live here in Cat House with us up until just a little while ago!!
...is a deserter from here!
I'M CHAR-CHAN!
A CHARTREUX • FEMALE
She's a deserter?!
Cha—
Char was?!
That's right... But now...

We're not gutter strays!
...sullies the core of this place!
A defective, gutter stray like you...

Y-You idiot !!!
We're Free Collars !!!!


That information reached me.
Heh heh...
Oh, I know.

I could have sworn Chartreux were more of a brunette color.
Isn't your breed a Chartreux?
The first moment that I saw you when you walked in, your appearance was so slovenly, I thought you were some mongrel who slinked in.
And your fur the color of sickly twigs.
Your skin is gritty and rough.
Well, now...
This is a high class place where humans can come in contact with exquisite felines such as we!

Why?! What's the deal?!!
It's the boy?!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
TMP
I don't really understand what's going on here...
But you were all in the same boat originally! This is wrong!
That's who we are!!
The Free Collars bought our freedom with our own strength!
This isn't any ordinary scar!!
RRRIPP

Now you've got a fight!
VSHH
?!
Shut up! Shut up!! Shut up!!!
WHOOSH
!!
HA
HA
A bunch of scarred-up alley cats licking each other's wounds.
HA

We don't want you around here!!
That's pretty rude!!
URK!
Did you say playing with dolls?!
Let's go, Boy!
TMP
Yeah!!
Back to Nyan-Man!!
Let's go home!
Wh-What is it this time? After that display, I can't imagine any business you'd have with us now!
Wait... Wh-What?
STIP
STIP

We're done playing with dolls, right?!
Char, let's go home!

...I'm being used, just like a doll.
It was a daily existence of being watched by humans, being fed, and being held by humans.

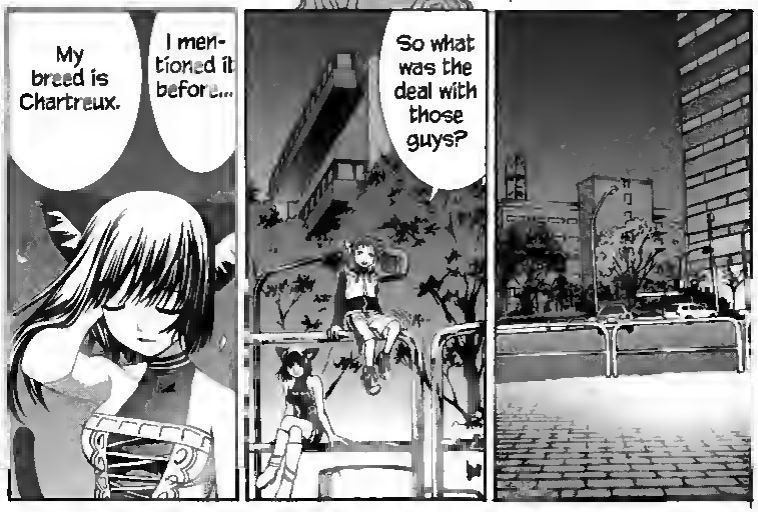
Princes and Princesses... stuck in our high tower.
I used to be just like those cats back there.

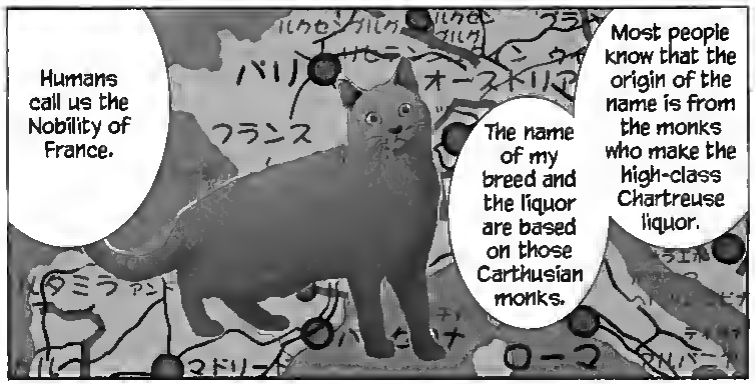
But...I couldn't help but think...

GLANCE
So I ran, not knowing what would become of me.

?!
Th-This is...

OH, NOOOO!
GLEEEEH
GLEEEH
GLEEEEE!!!!


My breed is Chartreux.
I mentioned it before...
So what was the deal with those guys?


Humans call us the Nobility of France.
The name of my breed and the liquor are based on those Carthusian monks.
Most people know that the origin of the name is from the monks who make the high-class Chartreuse liquor.

Tomorrow's event on Christmas Eve...
I'm going to make sure it's a success!
... and they'll never see it!
This is such a beautiful scene, so full of life...

Neither have I/ Christmas is almost here, huh?
I've never seen it before!
Wow! It's snow! Real, fresh snow!

But... It's something that makes me feel sorry for those cats.

Woow! She's cool!

You'll like it! You'll like it!
I have no interest in this type of thing!
Stop it! I told you to leave me alone!
Who are they supposed to be?!

I'm going home...
I-I know that girl! That's Char!!

There's something about her...I don't know...

?!!
What's everybody so fired up for?

YEAHHHH!!
TWIK

Zott
On Christmas Eve...

WWOOOONN

Oh! There he is! There!
Eh?

Where has Cyan gotten off to?
Aw! It's already started!

Some-
thing
that just
glows!!!

I... I'm no doll!
But Char doesn't need any costume.
See for yourselves, everybody!
Oh! I made a costume for Char to wear tonight...
Hm?
This, right here, is my Wild Spirit!!!
VWAAN

But...
Okay... you're right.
She's beautiful.
Oh, for pity's sake!!
Still... it's rare, but there are girls on whom a big mouth looks really good.
Look how that woman opens her big mouth again!
Ha ha!
I agree.
I can only wish I could be a girl that looks that pretty with a smile that big.

Free Collars Love Theater

1

By Fuji-Taku-chan

To be continued in Volume 2

FCK
FREE COLLARS KINGDOM

- Hello. Nice to meet you...again. I'm Takuya Fujima.
- This is the first volume of *Free Collars Kingdom*. It went to press before I knew it! And the first volume sure means a lot to me! To tell you the truth, I'm really happy about it. This is quite a bit different from any manga I worked on before, so I have no idea how people are going to take it. If you have fun reading it, then I'll be happy.

- My Scottie (male) is nearly two years old now. It seems like only a little while back when he was a tiny little kitten. Also Scottie (female) in the manga (and, of course, this includes all of the other characters) suddenly looks like she's grown up so much over time. I wonder, "What would be best for them to grow into?" We'll see more in Volume 2.

- Takuya Fujima, Feb. 2003

The Woman Named Siam

"Tuna"

TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation or a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Chapter titles, page 2

These are all puns on popular titles that have been changed to match the catty situation.

Attack names, page 3

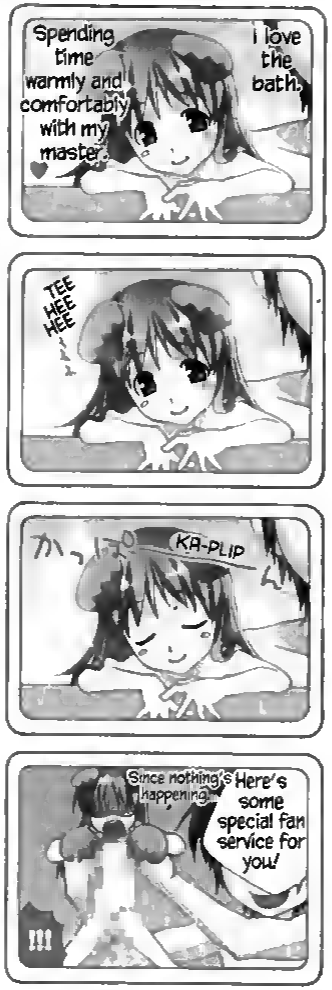
This attack name is a takeoff on the Street Fighter video game, in which the character Ryû's favorite move is *Jô-ryû-ken* (The Rising Dragon Fist). Yelling attack names while fighting is a standard feature of anime, manga, and video games. It doesn't happen much in real life, but neither does purple hair—and we wouldn't want to change that either.

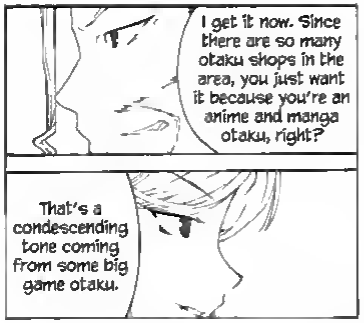
Kokoro, page 4

Kokoro isn't an extremely common name in Japan, but it isn't unheard of either. It means "heart" in Japanese.

Free Collars Love Theater 2

Just a Moment in the Life




I get it now. Since there are so many otaku shops in the area, you just want it because you're an anime and manga otaku, right?
That's a condescending tone coming from some big game otaku.

Otaku, page 47

For those who don't yet know, *otaku* is the Japanese word for "devoted fan." It comes from a word meaning "home," since *otaku* tend to stay at home rather than engage in social interaction. In 1989, Tsutomu Miyazaki was arrested for a series of brutal, cannibalistic child murders, and since he was a horror-movie and anime *otaku*, the Japanese press dubbed his insanity the "*otaku* problem" and sensationalized the case, implying that all *otaku* are potential murderers. In spite of this incident, in the nineties, the growing anime, game, and manga fandom in America proudly borrowed the Japanese word and called themselves *otaku*. In recent years, due to the massive popularity of a real-life love story between a typical *otaku* and a beautiful woman that appeared in a novel called *Densha Otoko* (*Train Man*), there has been an "*otaku* boom" and more widespread respect for *otaku* in Japan. *Otaku* doesn't simply apply to anime, game, and manga fans. It also may include military *otaku*, martial arts *otaku*, health-and-fitness *otaku*, etc.

Misty Feather, page 59

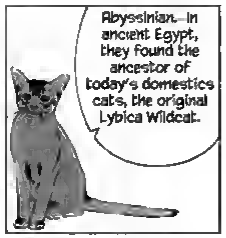
The kanji that Scottie shouts mean "mist," "feather," "flower petal," and "full-out dance." But the pronunciation guide next to the kanji clearly says the English words "Misty Feather."

Scott tissues, page 83

Yes, they do have Scott tissues in Japan, and, yes, this was exactly the same pun in Japanese.

Ikebukuro, page 10

Tokyo has quite a few city centers, the most popular of which are the Ginza for those with expensive tastes, Shibuya for young people, and Shinjuku for more average folks. Ikebukuro has all of the same attractions as the other city centers, such as stores, restaurants, theaters, cinemas, and other forms of entertainment, but recently it has become a haven for female *otaku*. It also has a partially deserved reputation as a mean street and a destination for gangs of street punks.

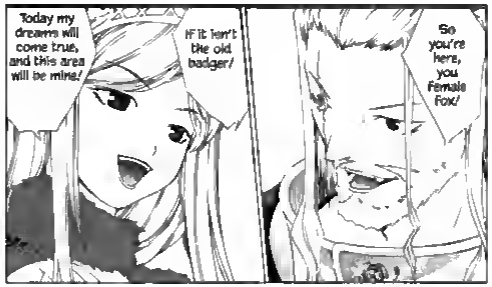


Lybica wildcat, page 27

In Japanese it is called the *ribiayama-neko* or Lybia mountain cat, but the common term for it in English is "African wildcat" or "desert cat" (*Felis silvestris lybica*). They are indeed considered to be the common ancestor of all domestic cats, having been adopted by the Egyptians initially for their help in rooting out rodents from grain stores and then later revered as a deity. But the African wildcat is not extinct. African wildcats are, in fact, very common everywhere in Africa except for the rain forests. On the other hand, the African wildcat's cousin, the European wildcat, is considered critically endangered.

Fox and badger spirits, page 46

Amesho says Siam is a female fox spirit (*onna kitsune*), and Siam calls Amesho "the old badger" (*tanuki ojisama*). Both spirits are known for their cunning and trickery.



Cosplay, page 93

L-Let me play! I'll take you on, one-on-one!!
I-it's so cool!!
The old man is wearing the exact same clothes as the character in the game! Can this be what they mean by cosplay?!

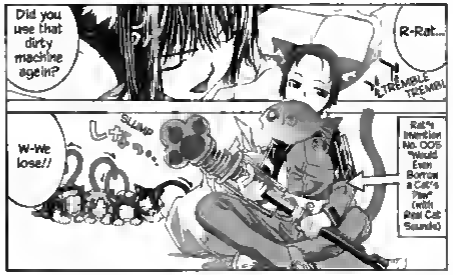
Short for "costume play," cosplay has a broader meaning in Japan than it does in America. It can mean creating and wearing costumes in order to look like one's favorite movie, anime, or game character, but it can also mean dressing in the style of one's favorite singer, or making a fashion statement with outrageous clothes and cosmetics.

Both girls starting to curve to silence!
This is why he stops by every so often.
Y-You broke the base of a limited edition figure from Urushihara-sensei's Dark Crimson series!!!

Urushihara-sensei, page 122

The manga artist Satoshi Urushihara started out in animation, where he rose rather quickly. He became famous for his first manga, *Legend of Lemnear*, and had a bona fide hit with his *Plastic Little* series. He is best known for the obsessive detail in his drawings of women's breasts, which has made him very popular with his male *otaku*.

"Would Even Borrow a Cat's Paw," page 152

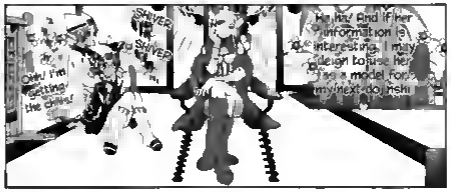

Did you use that dirty machine again?
R-Rat...
EXTREMELY TREMBLING
W-We lose!!
SLUMP
Rat's invention No. 005 "Would Even Borrow a Cat's Paw" (with Real Cat Sounds)

Neko no te mo karitai is a Japanese saying used to indicate that one is very busy. The logic behind it is that one is so busy that they'd appreciate even a cat's help. Here, Rat's gadget is literally borrowing a cat's paw.

West Ikebukuro, page 85

Some people may have clued into the atmosphere by watching the manga/anime/live-action drama *Ikebukuro West Park Gate*, but every one of Tokyo's city centers has a less reputable district. West Ikebukuro is the seedy part of Ikebukuro. The tourist publications call it an "educational district," since there is a famous art museum and a couple of institutions of higher learning, but you'd get a different kind of education if you visited the streets of West Ikebukuro on a Friday or Saturday night. By the way, the Japanese narration said that Siam and her gang were in the basement of a business in the sex trade, but it didn't say what kind. It could have been a strip club, massage parlor, soapland, peep show, etc.

Dôjinshi, page 89

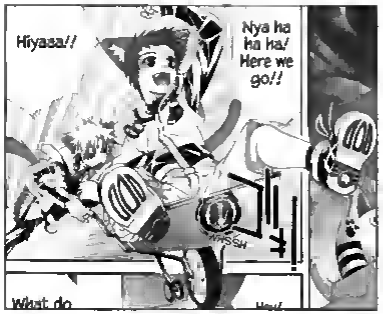

Silver
Silver
Oho! I'm getting the chills!
Hmhm! Find if her information is interesting. I may decide to use her as a model for my next dojinshi!

Dôjinshi are fan-made manga. Many use characters and situations created by mainstream manga artists in the same way that fan fiction does in North America, but others are wholly original works. In a biannual convention called Comic Market, or *Comiketto*, thousands and thousands of *dôjinshi* authors gather to sell their manga to other fans.

Scottie? At his age?
Sure, but that's the kind of thing he likes.
Isn't it a little sick that the old man chases the "moe" style everyday?
No way!

Moe style, page 92

Moeru is a verb meaning "to sprout or bud," but its derivative, *moe*, has become a byword for the cute, elaborately dressed girls who are all the rage among *otaku* these days. These girls most often wear French maid costumes, but they aren't limited to them.



Wheelbarrow, page 178

One reason that Coon and Cyan are playing in a small wheelbarrow might be that a Japanese word for wheelbarrow is *nekoguruma* or "cat-car."

Hard rock pun, page 183

Readers may have noticed that Char is the "hard rock" girl of the series. Even aside from the live Christmas concert (very popular for pop groups in Japan), her weapons are guitar picks and her clothes are the modified "punk" clothes that have been popular among Japanese rock bands for a while now. The original Japanese pun used the English words "hard" and "rock."

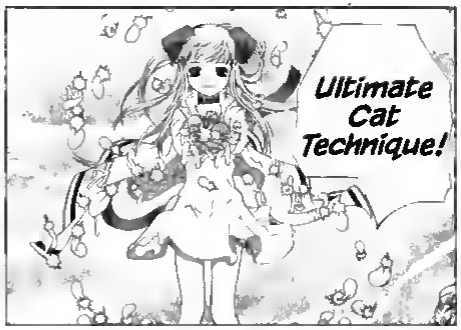
Tokyu Nyans, page 184

Tokyu Nyans is a pun on the name of one of the most popular department stores in Ikebukuro, Tokyu Hands.

History of piranha, page 160

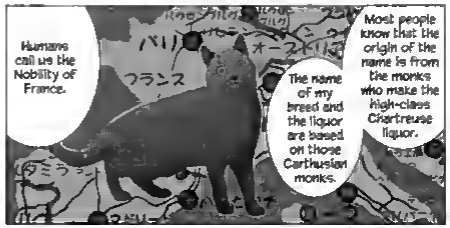
It seems that the piranha attack mentioned on the aquarium sign and that drew Roosevelt's comments was something of a hoax. Reports claim that the Brazilians caught piranha and threw them into a netted-off section of a river, because they knew that Roosevelt would be pleased to "discover" a river filled with frightening, carnivorous fish. The natives cut the udders off a cow and dropped them into a river filled with piranha that had been starved for days prior to Roosevelt's arrival. Apparently, the results were as spectacular as the Brazilians expected, and Roosevelt's report on it won for piranha everywhere their present reputation. Although piranha are certainly dangerous, they aren't the swarming killers that legend and entertainment has made them out to be.

Attack or Technique?, page 163



You'll find that this translation sometimes uses the word "technique" and sometimes the word "attack" to stand for the same phrase: *Hissatsu Neko-Waza*. As in many translations, context is of the utmost importance in choosing the right words. Most of the time, *Hissatsu Neko-Waza* is used in battle situations in which the word "attack" is indeed suitable. (It's also easier to fit into the oblong Japanese manga word balloons!) But in Scottie's case, nearly all of her techniques (*waza*) are defensive or supporting, so it's not quite right to call them attacks.

Carthusian Monks, page 198

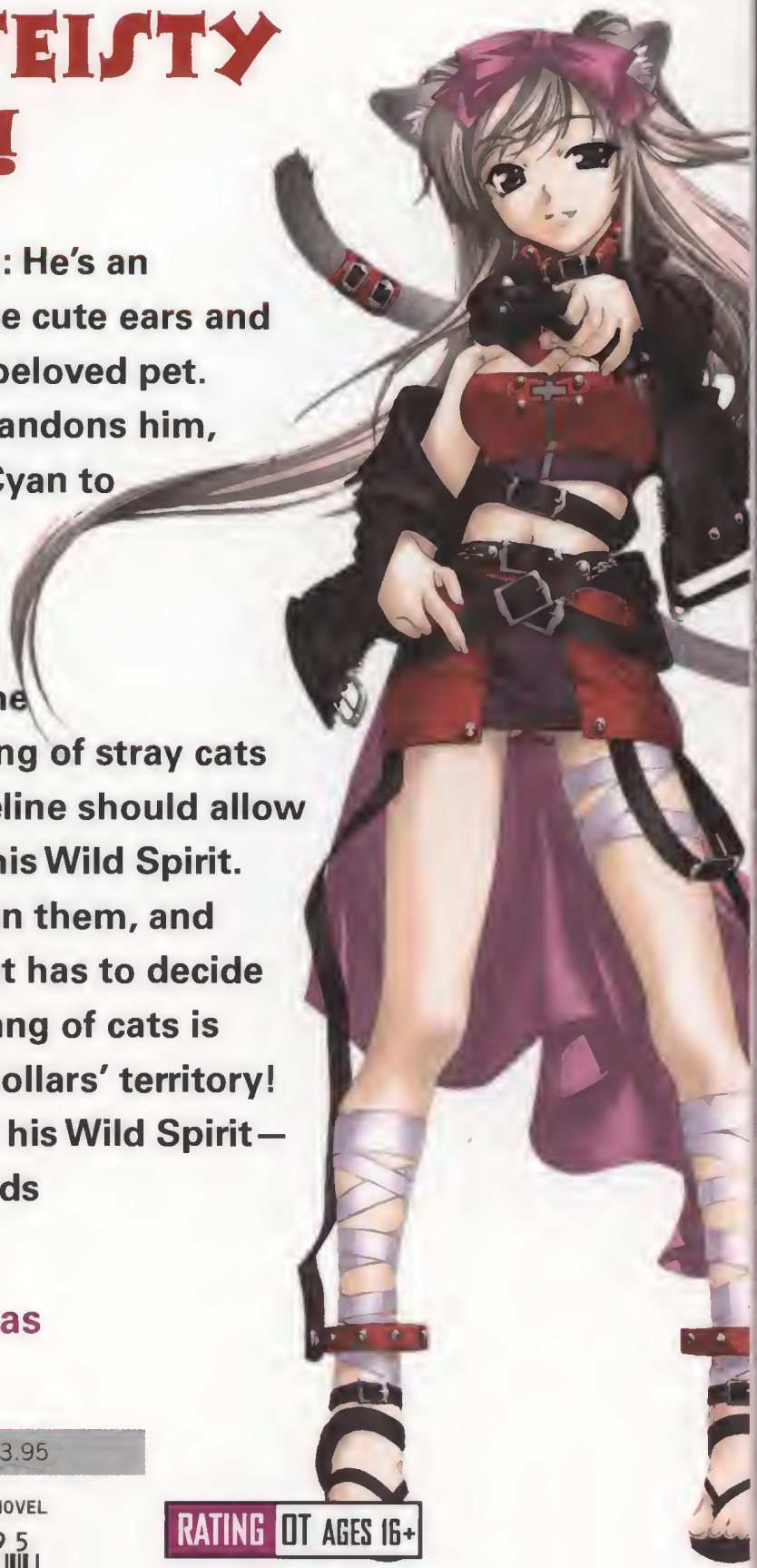

Humans call us the Nobility of France.
The name of my breed and the liquor are based on those Carthusian monks.
Most people know that the origin of the name is from the monks who make the high-class Chartreuse liquor.

Founded by St. Bruno in 1084, this order is named for the Chartreuse Valley in the French Alps. In 1605, in an abbey near Paris, the French marshal of artillery gave the monks, among other presents, the recipe for an elixir to prolong life. The recipe made its way to Chartreuse, and in 1737, it was produced and sold as a medicine. Since it was 142 proof, it became a very popular medicine. The Chartreux cat is thought to have been brought back by crusaders from Syria in the thirteenth century, and the breed was claimed by the Carthusians when the crusaders entered the order.

Shiritori, page 210

A popular Japanese word game in which you take the last letter (syllable) of the word spoken by your opponent and begin your word with that same letter (syllable). But when one player ends a word with the syllable *n*, the game is over and that player has lost—the reason being that no Japanese word begins with just an *n* sound. (There are syllables for *na*, *ni*, *nu*, *ne*, and *no*, but the *n* alone is considered a separate syllable.) In the manga, we noted what the next syllable must begin with and the translation for each Japanese word.

THOSE FEISTY FELINES!



It's hard to resist Cyan: He's an adorable catboy whose cute ears and tail have made him a beloved pet. But then his family abandons him, leaving the innocent Cyan to fend for himself.

Just when Cyan thinks he's all alone in the world, he meets the Free Collars, a cool gang of stray cats who believe that no feline should allow a human to imprison his Wild Spirit. They invite Cyan to join them, and the reluctant house cat has to decide fast, because a rival gang of cats is threatening the Free Collars' territory! Can Cyan learn to free his Wild Spirit—and help his new friends save their home?

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